



VIKRAMADITYA

COURAGE AND HONOUR WIN THE DAY

Vol 568





The route to your roots

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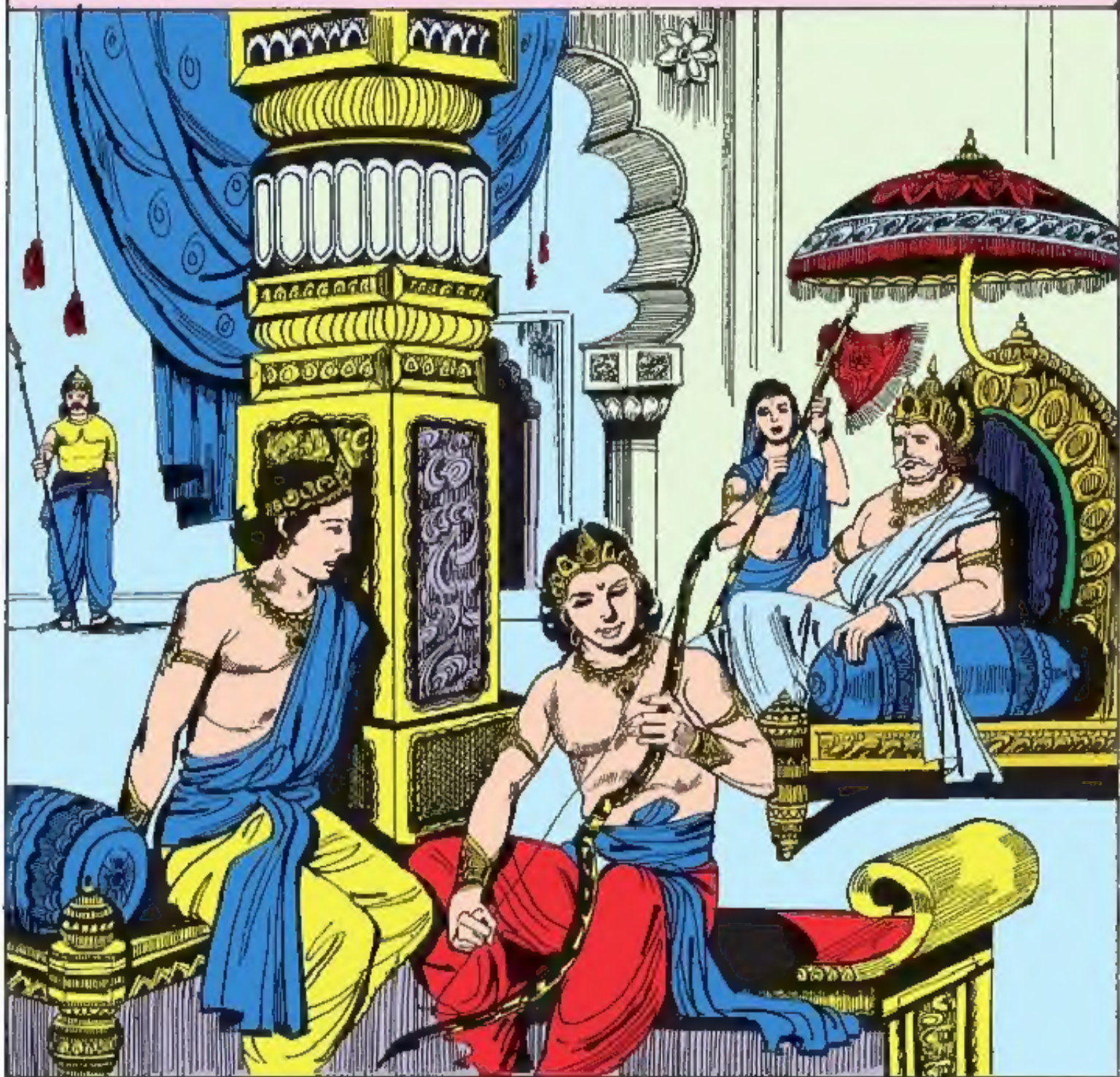
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Vikramaditya



ABOUT 1,600 YEARS AGO, A VAST PART OF INDIA WAS RULED BY A GREAT KING, SAMUDRAGUPTA. PATALIPUTRA WAS ITS CAPITAL. THE KING HAD TWO SONS - RAMAGUPTA AND CHANDRAGUPTA.

THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PLAYMATES, SONS OF THEIR FATHER'S MINISTERS AND OFFICERS. ONE DAY -

PRASEN,
SHALL WE
GO TO THE
RIVER BANK
TO PLAY?

THAT
WILL BE
GREAT
FUN!

THE RIVER
BANK IS
HAUNTED BY
WILD BEASTS.
LET US SEE
WHAT
FATHER
SAYS.



THEY WENT TO THE KING.

MAY WE GO TO
THE RIVER BANK
FOR A WALK?

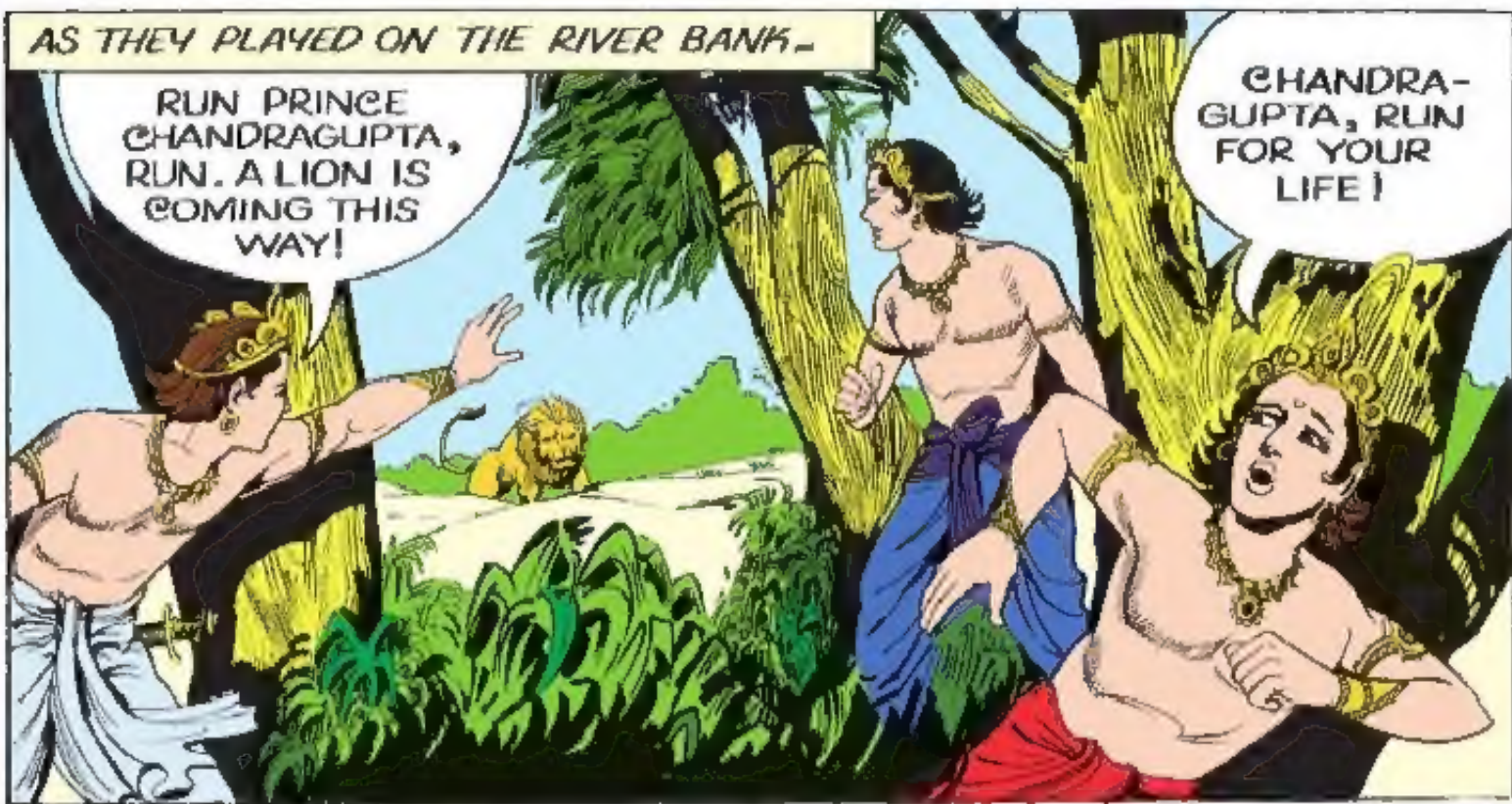
CERTAINLY
MY SONS;
YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO
FEAR.



AS THEY PLAYED ON THE RIVER BANK -

RUN PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA,
RUN. A LION IS
COMING THIS
WAY!

CHANDRA-
GUPTA, RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE!



BUT CHANDRAGUPTA STOOD
HIS GROUND.

LET IT COME.
I'LL FACE IT.



AS THE LION ATTACKED HIM,
CHANDRAGUPTA SIDE-STEPPED AND -



RAMAGUPTA,
HE IS BRAVE,
ISN'T HE?

HE WAS
JUST TRY-
ING TO
SHOW OFF.




AS THE PRINCES DID NOT RETURN IN TIME, SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM.

OH-OH! A DEAD LION
AT THE FEET OF PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA!



THE SOLDIERS RUSHED BACK AND INFORMED SAMUDRAGUPTA.


THAT'S LIKE MY
SON. I HOPE HE
IS NOT HURT.




AT THAT MOMENT THE PRINCES AND THEIR FRIENDS ARRIVED
FOLLOWED BY A CHEERING CROWD.

I SAW HIM
KILLING
THE LION!

HE IS
FEARLESS
INDEED!







CHANDRAGUPTA
MIGHT...

IT'S TOO SOON.
YOUR FATHER'S
ASHES ARE
STILL WARM.

WHEN A FEW DAYS HAD GONE BY -

YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE
MAKE THE NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS TO
CROWN PRINCE
RAMAGUPTA.

BUT
OUR LATE
MAHARAJ HAD WISHED
PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA
TO SUCCEED HIM.

BUT PRASEN!
THE RIGHT OF
SUCCESSION IS
MY ELDER BROTHER'S.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY
WAS PERFORMED.

MAY YOU
SAFEGUARD THE
TRADITIONS OF
YOUR ANCESTORS
AND THE COUNTRY,
SIRE!

HE WILL SAFEGUARD
NEITHER OF THE TWO.
TAKE MY WORD
FOR IT.

LATER RAMAGUPTA MARRIED DHRUVA DEVI, A PRINCESS OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY.

WELCOME, CHANDRA-GUPTA. THE QUEEN HAS BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT YOU.

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR HEROIC DEEDS EVEN BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, CHANDRAGUPTA.

THE FOLLOWING DAY.

MADHAVI, THERE IS NO EXAGGERATION IN WHAT THEY SAY OF CHANDRAGUPTA.

YES, HE DESERVES ALL THEY SAY AND MORE.

PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA RENOUNCED THE CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

IS THAT SO?

ONE DAY.

MY LORD, I AM TOLD PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA GAVE UP THE CROWN FOR YOU!

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MANY MORE THINGS.

MY QUEEN, NOBODY EVER MAKES SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR ANOTHER.

SOME MONTHS LATER, THE KING WENT ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE KINGDOM. WHEN IT GREW DARK, THEY ALL CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



NEXT MORNING WHEN THEY STARTED MARCHING AHEAD -



SOON A SOLDIER CAME RUSHING TO THE KING.



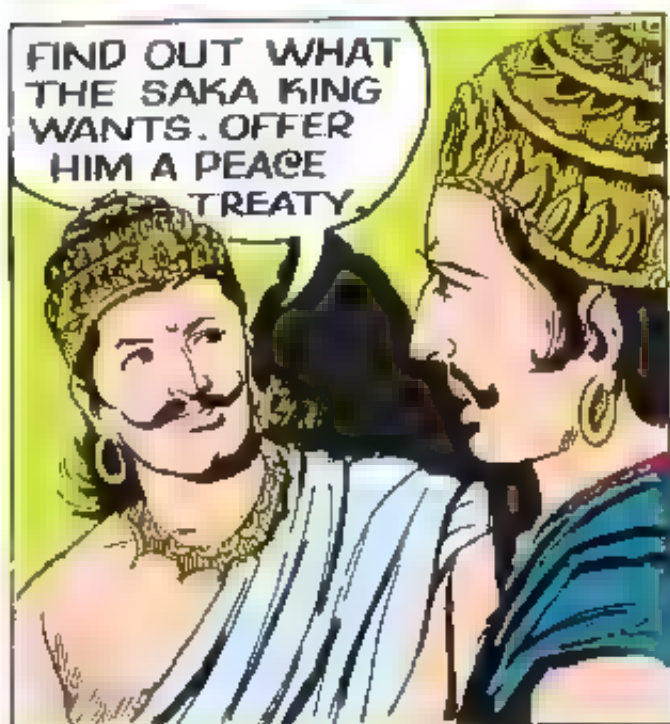
SOME TIME LATER -

I BRING BAD NEWS, O KING! THE PASS THROUGH WHICH WE CAME HAS ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAKAS WE ARE TRAPPED!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? WE WILL BE MASSACRED. FIND SOME WAY OUT, MINISTER.



FIND OUT WHAT THE SAKA KING WANTS. OFFER HIM A PEACE TREATY.



A TREATY? IS THERE NO ALTERNATIVE?

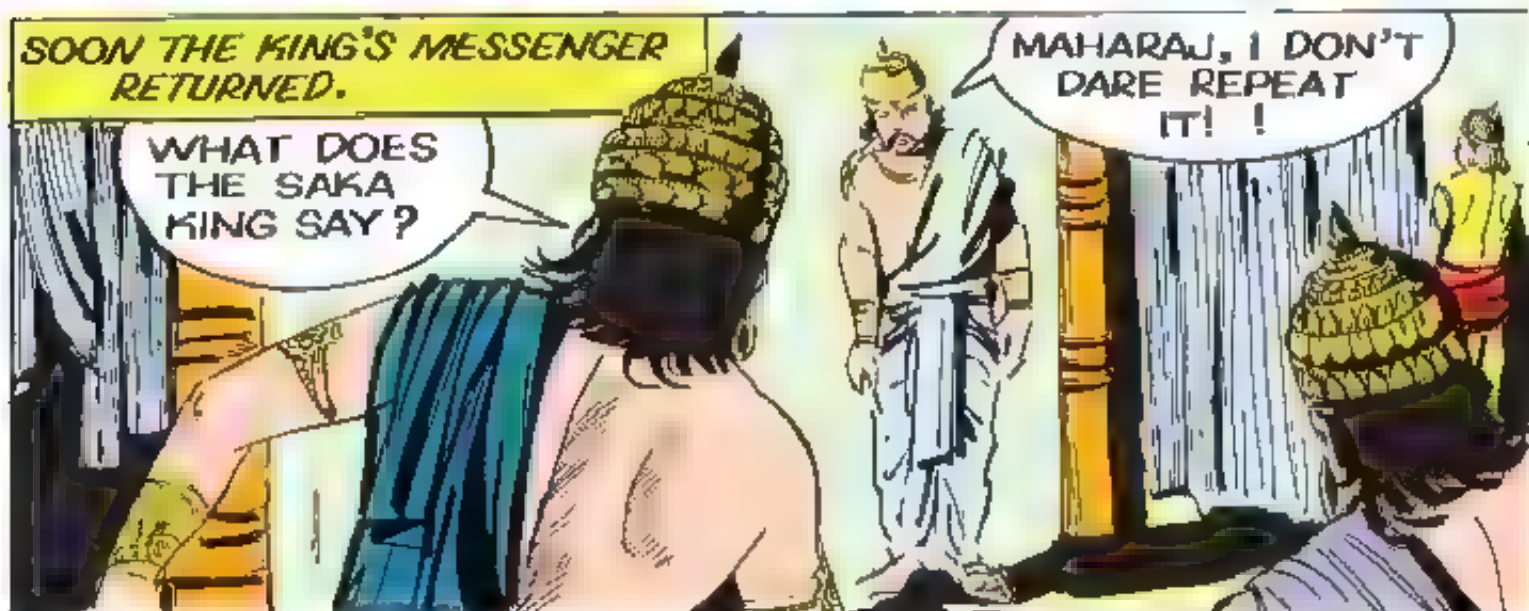
GO AWAY FROM HERE. DON'T MEDDLE IN THE MATTERS OF STATE.

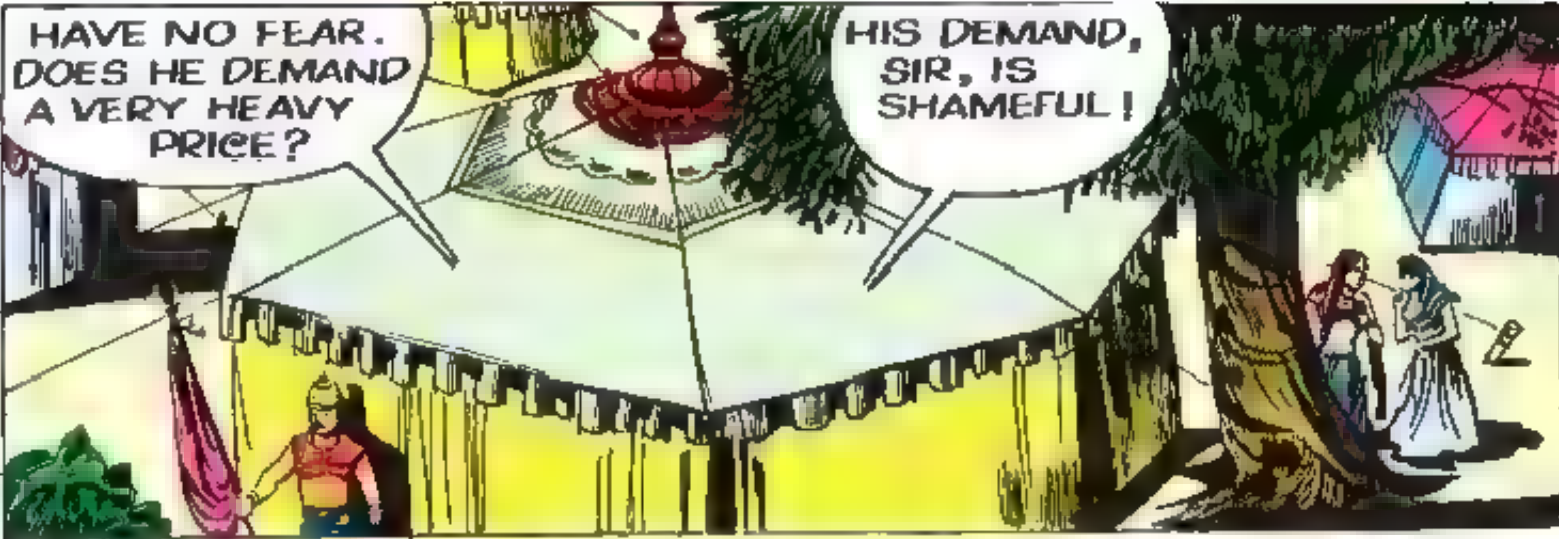


SOON THE KING'S MESSENGER RETURNED.

WHAT DOES THE SAKA KING SAY?

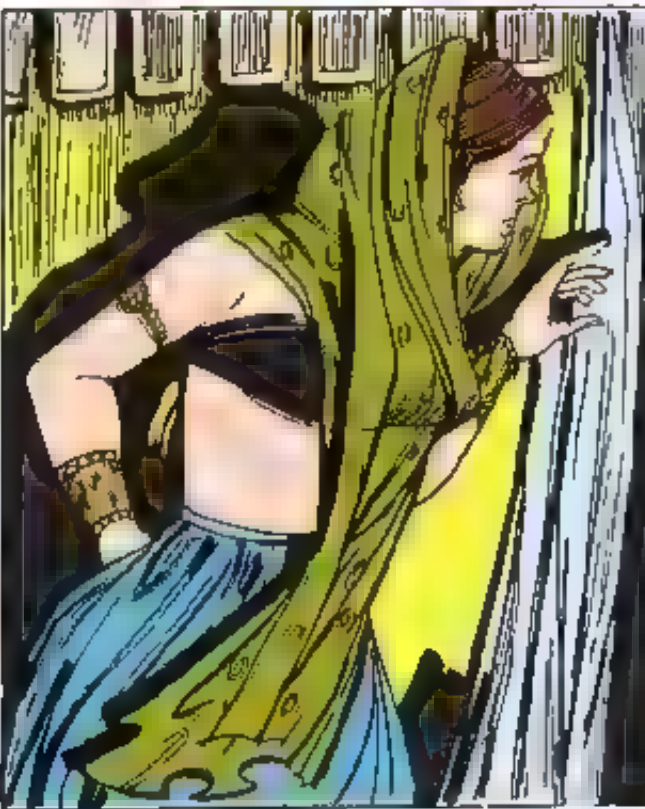
MAHARAJ, I DON'T DARE REPEAT IT!!






HAVE NO FEAR.
DOES HE DEMAND
A VERY HEAVY
PRICE?

HIS DEMAND,
SIR, IS
SHAMEFUL!



I'LL PAY ANY
PRICE FOR
PEACE!



MAHARAJ, HE
SAID MAHARANI
DHARVA DEVI WAS
TO HAVE BEEN
MARRIED TO HIM,
A LONG TIME
AGO!

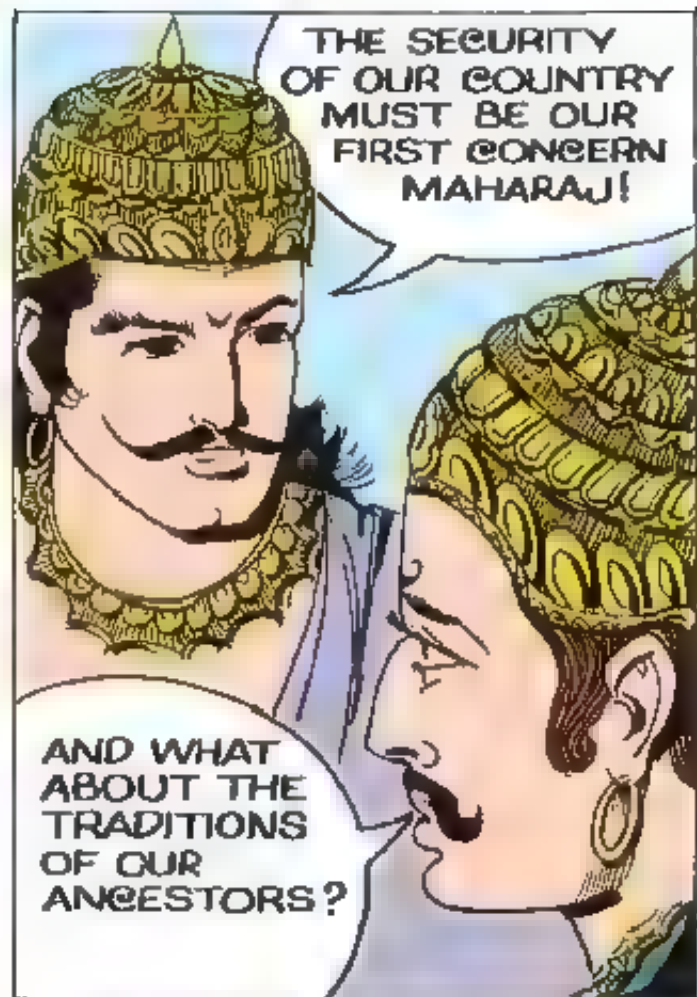


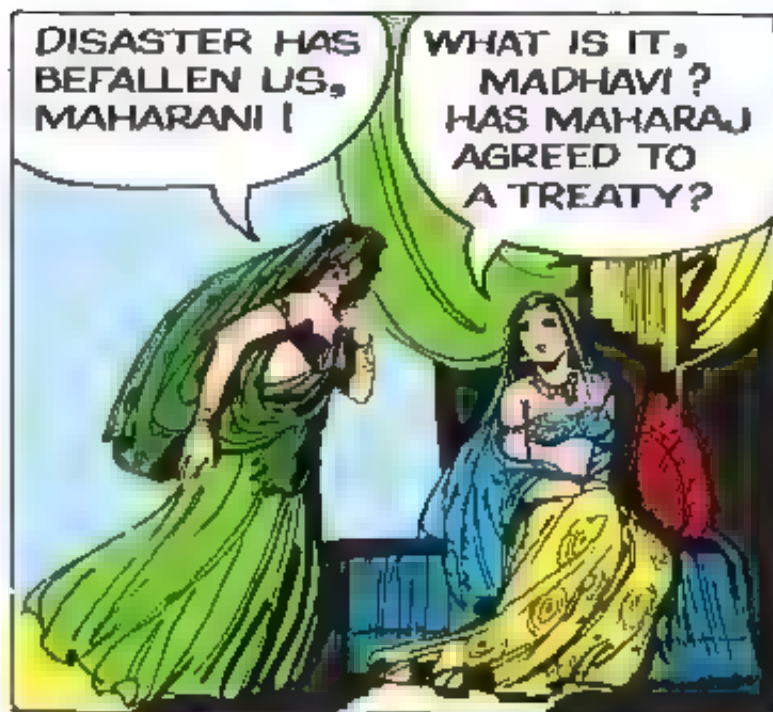
HE DEMANDS
THE HAND OF
OUR QUEEN?



THAT'S
RIGHT!

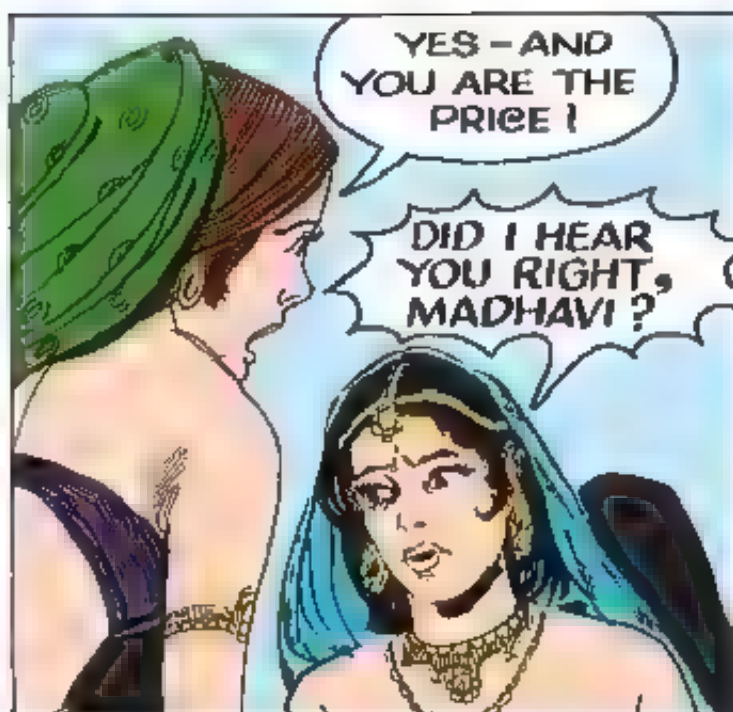
THIS
IS RIDICULOUS.
ISN'T THERE
ANOTHER WAY OUT?





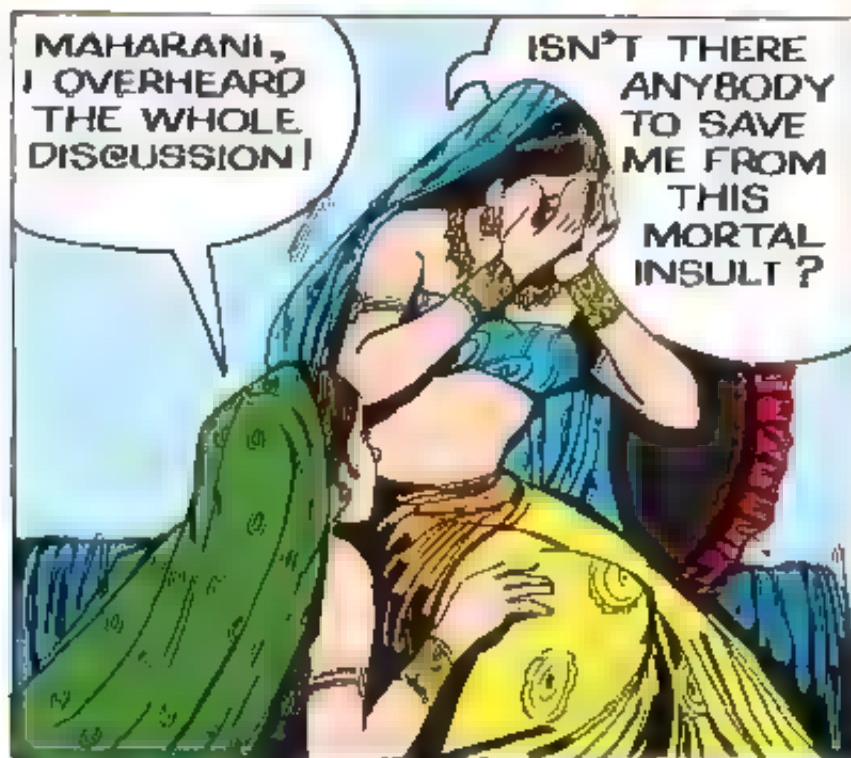
DISASTER HAS
BEFALLEN US,
MAHARANI !

WHAT IS IT,
MADHAVI ?
HAS MAHARAJ
AGREED TO
A TREATY?



YES - AND
YOU ARE THE
PRICE !

DID I HEAR
YOU RIGHT,
MADHAVI ?



MAHARANI,
I OVERHEARD
THE WHOLE
DISCUSSION !

ISN'T THERE
ANYBODY
TO SAVE
ME FROM
THIS
MORTAL
INSULT ?



YES, THERE
IS - PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA
ALONE CAN
HELP YOU.

IS THAT
REALLY POSSIBLE ?
HURRY !
GO TO HIM.



LATER -

MADHAVI
HAS TOLD
ME ALL,
O QUEEN !

PRINCE,
YOUR BROTHER
HAS BETRAYED
ME .

PLEASE CALM
YOURSELF. NOBODY
DARE INSULT YOU
WHILE I AM
ALIVE.

THE PRINCE
ALWAYS HONOURS
HIS WORD,
MY QUEEN!

LATER -

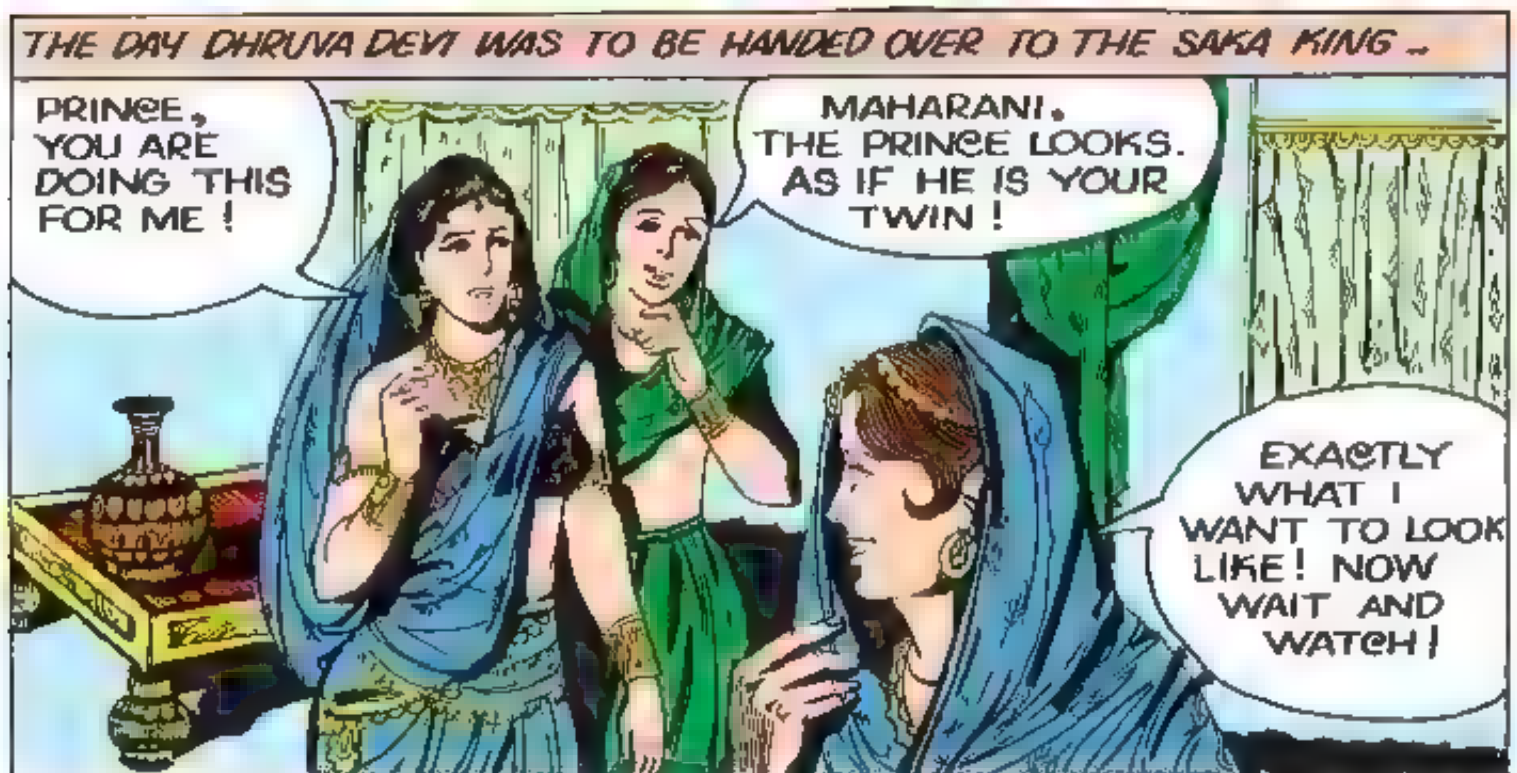
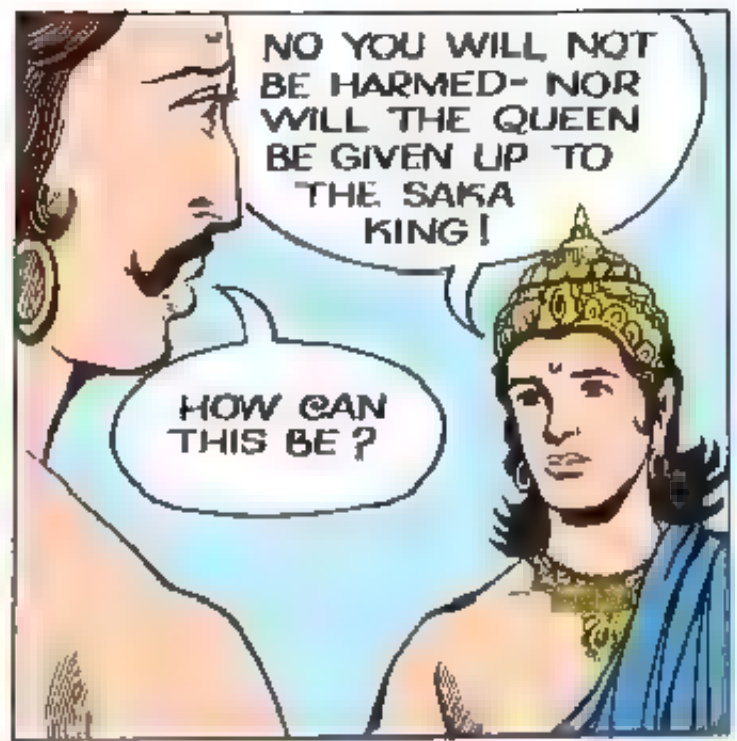
MAY I HAVE A
WORD WITH YOU,
MAHARAJ!

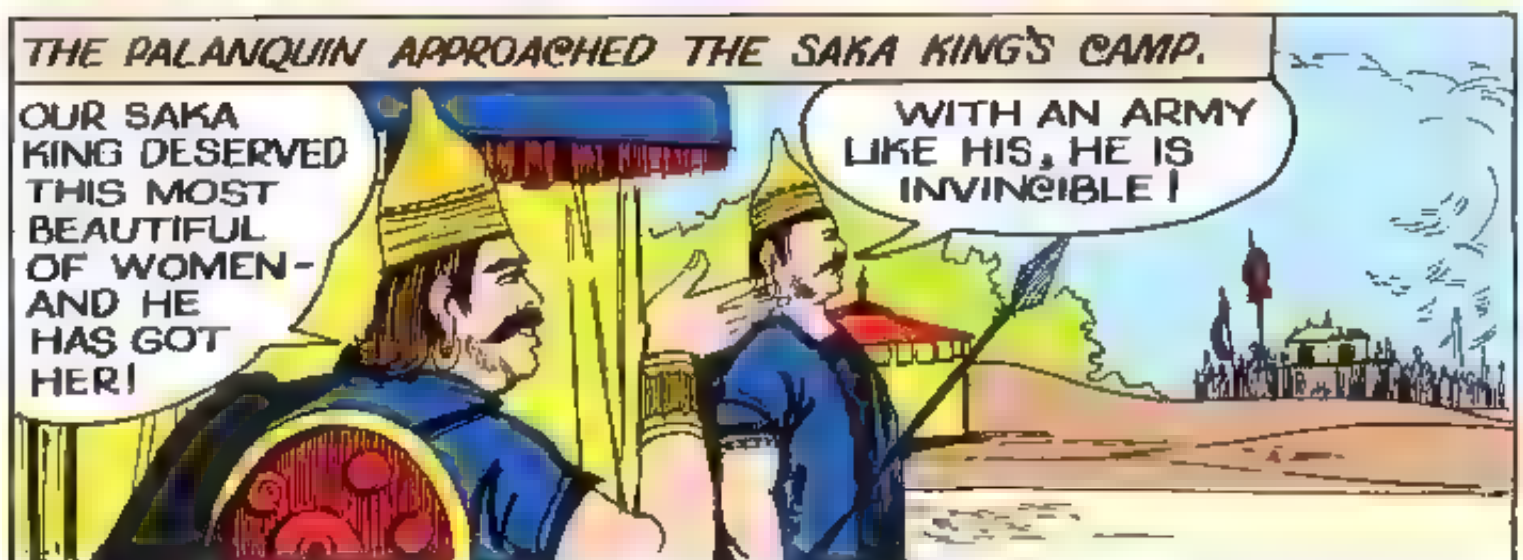
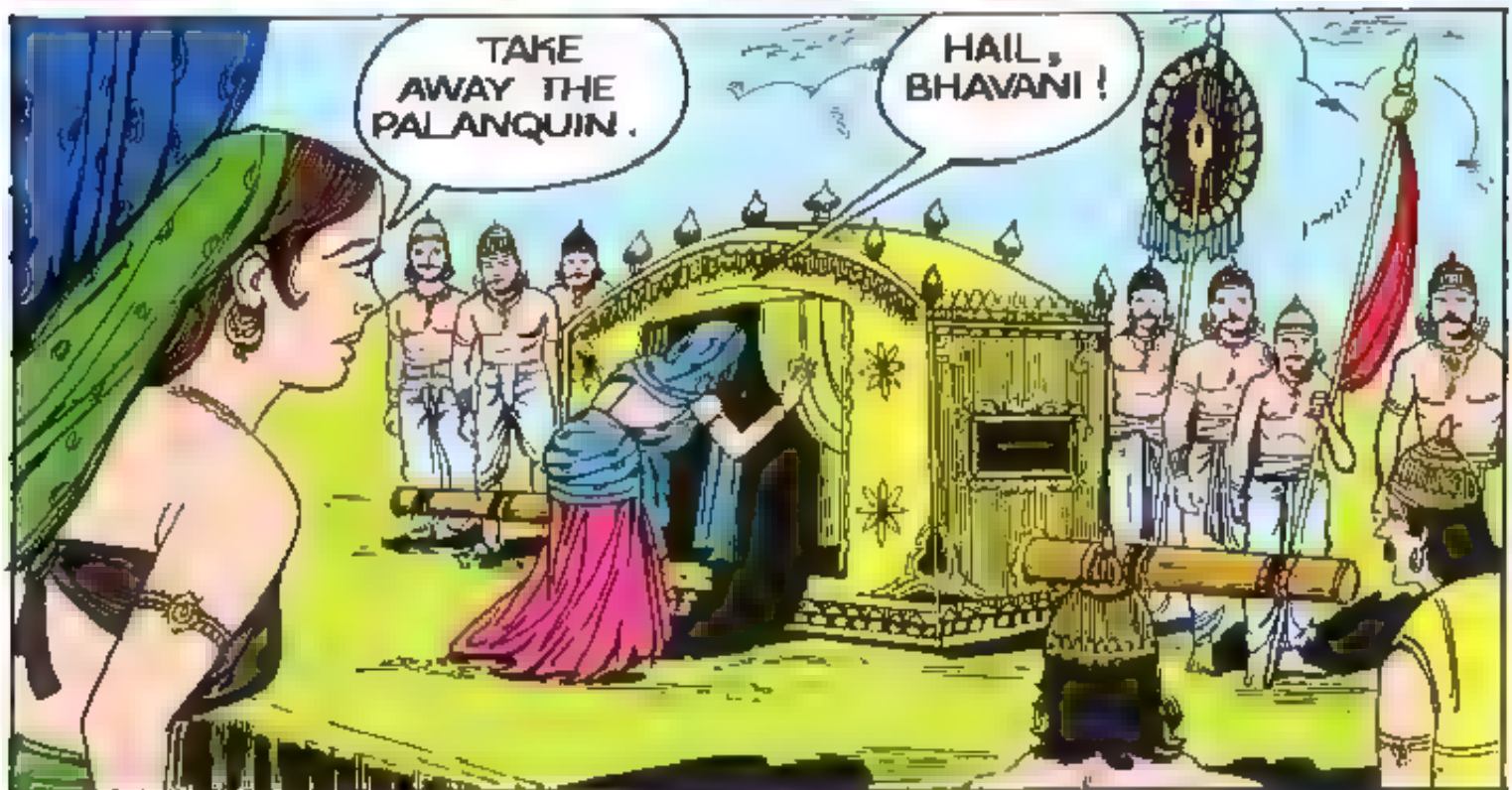
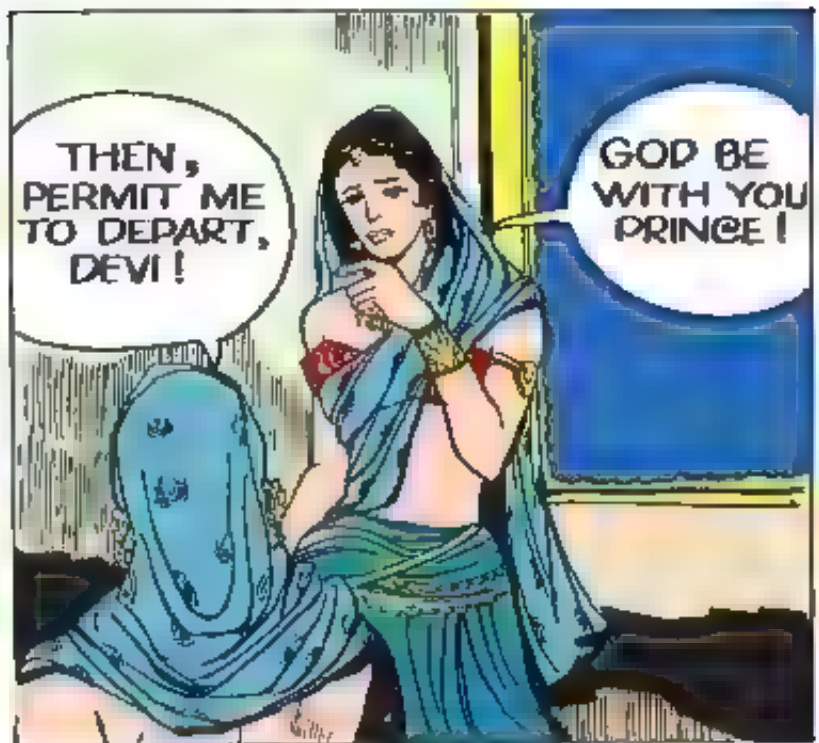
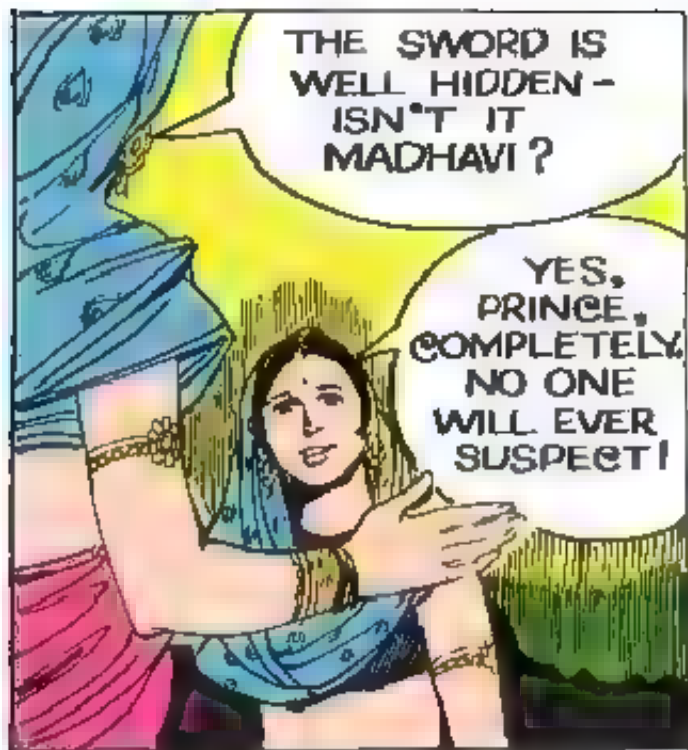
WHAT'S
IT?

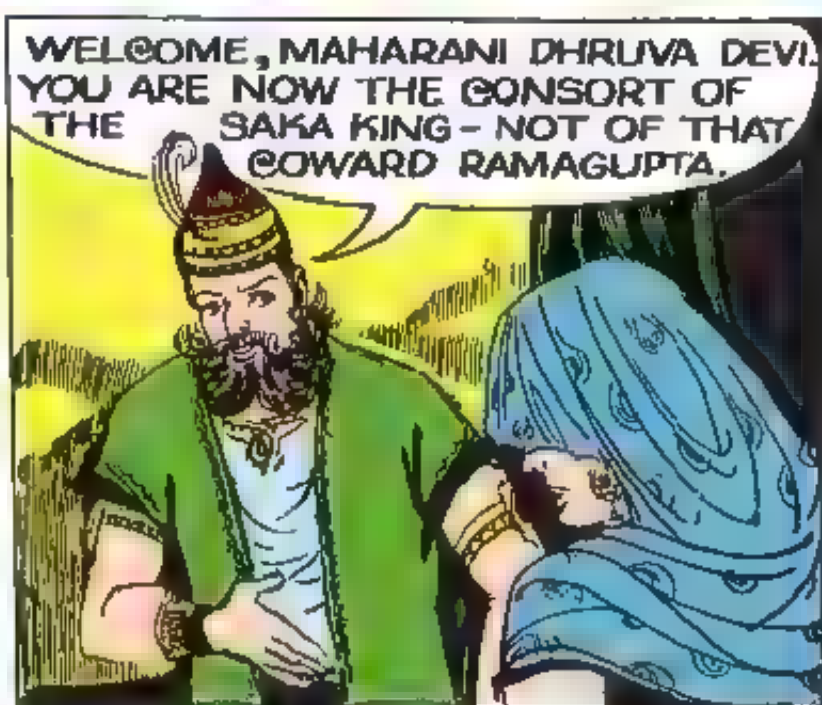
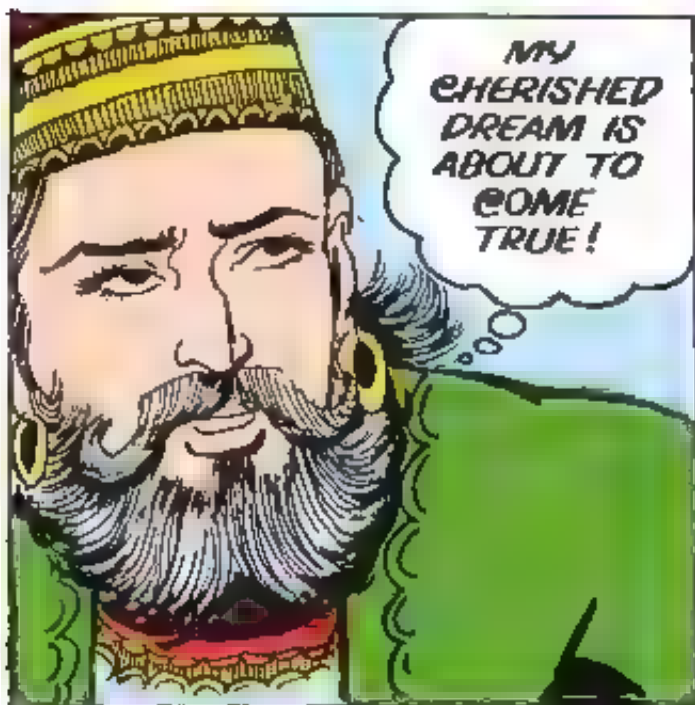
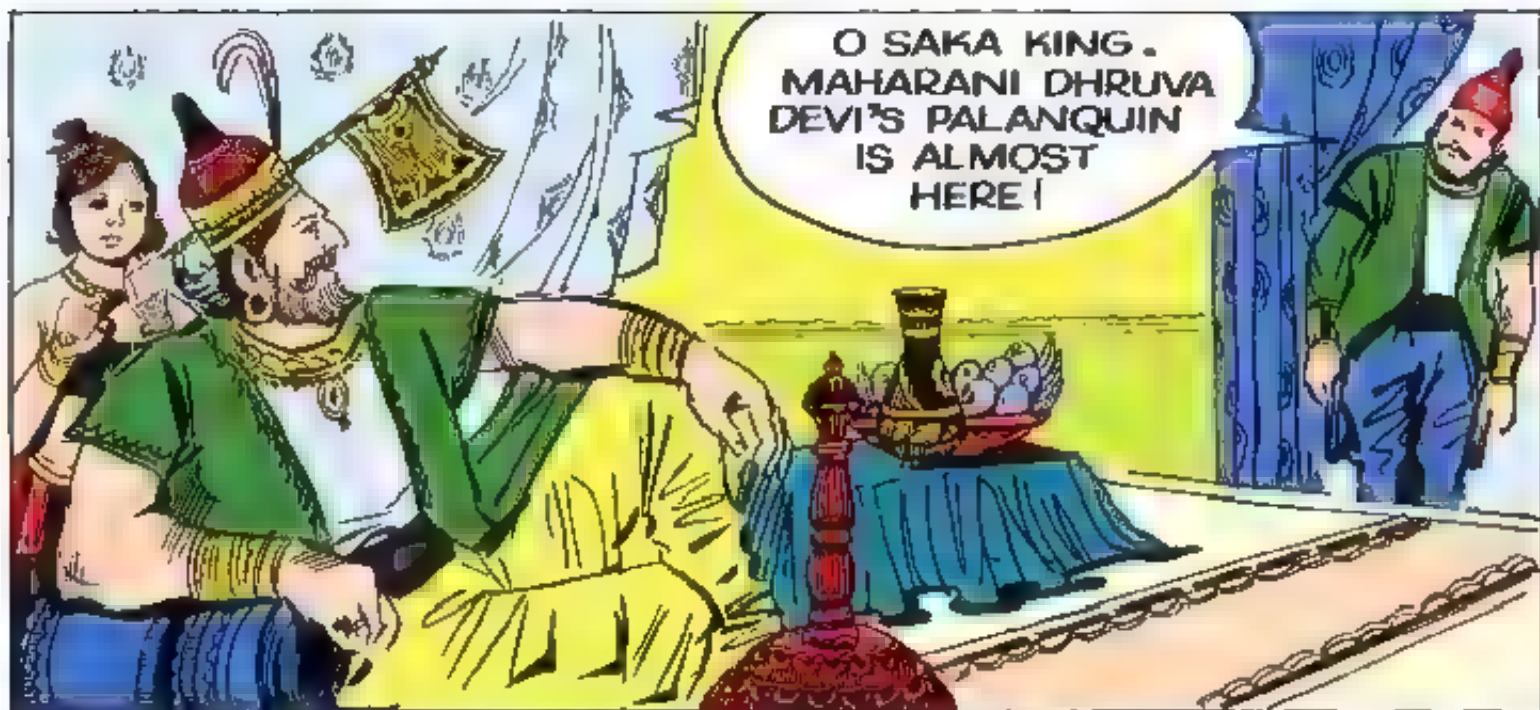
MAHARAJ, HAVE
YOU REALLY
AGREED TO HAND
OVER MAHARANI
DHARVA DEVI
TO THE
SAKA KING?

THERE IS NO
ALTERNATIVE,
CHANDRAGUPTA.

THIS MUST
BE DONE - TO
SAVE OUR
COUNTRY,
PRINCE.

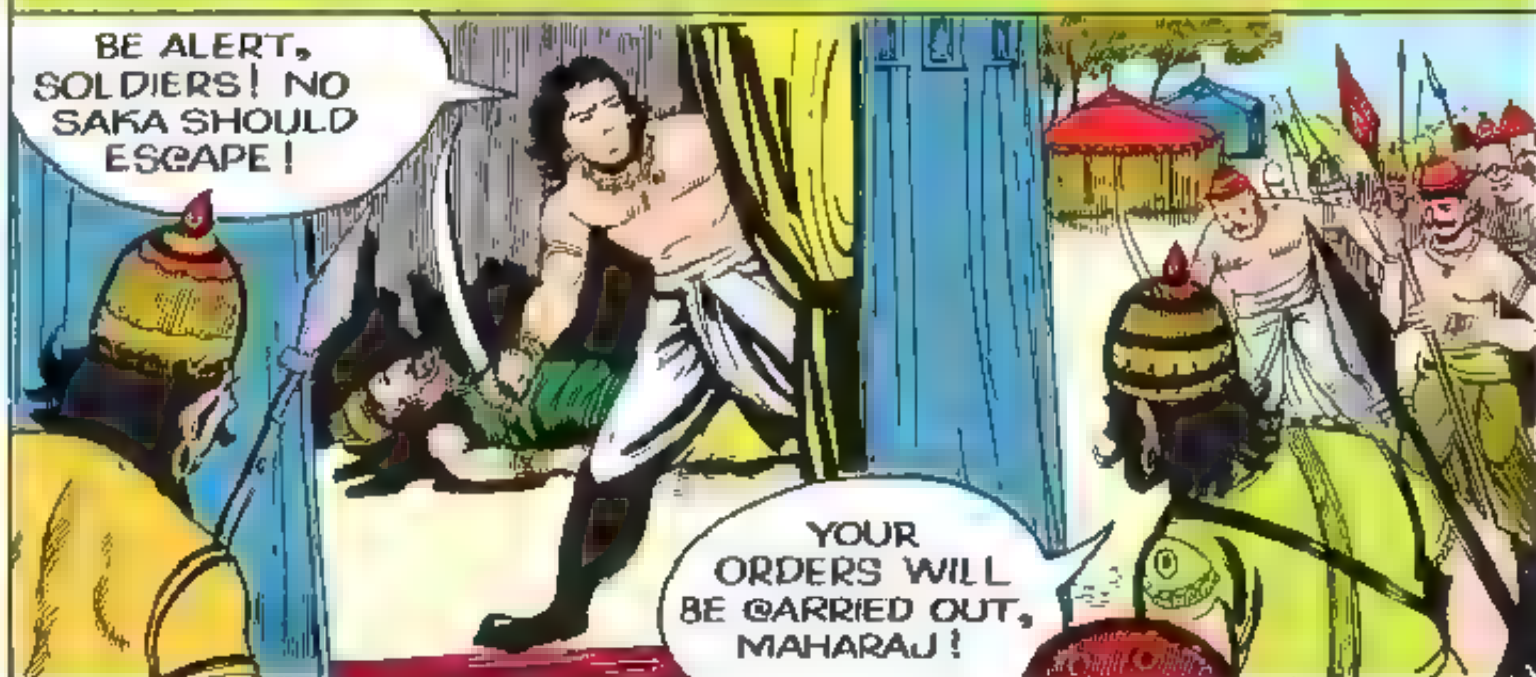








THE SAKA KING FELL WOUNDED. CHANDRAGUPTA'S MEN ENTERED THE CAMP.





IN A SHORT WHILE, THOUSANDS OF SAKA TROOPS WERE PUT TO DEATH.



HUNDREDS OF SAKA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS.

OUR KING, THE GREAT CONQUEROR, IS NO MORE!



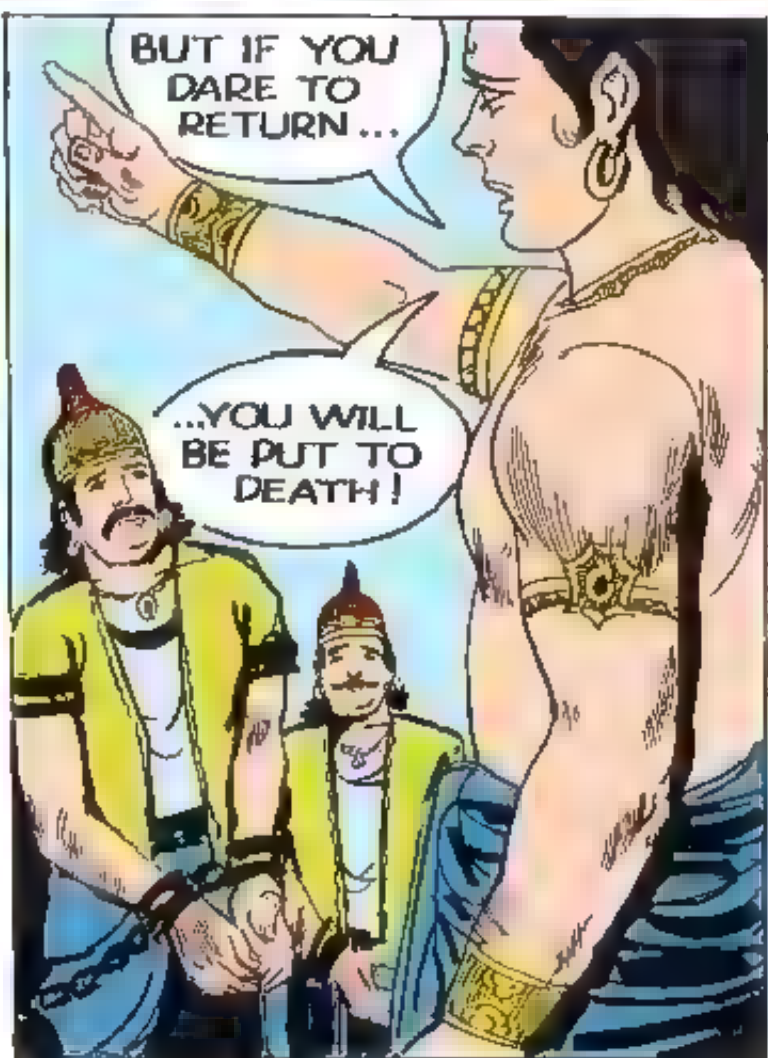
SPARE OUR LIVES - WE BEG OF YOU, COMMANDER.

YOU WILL BE BANISHED FROM THIS COUNTRY!



BUT IF YOU DARE TO RETURN...

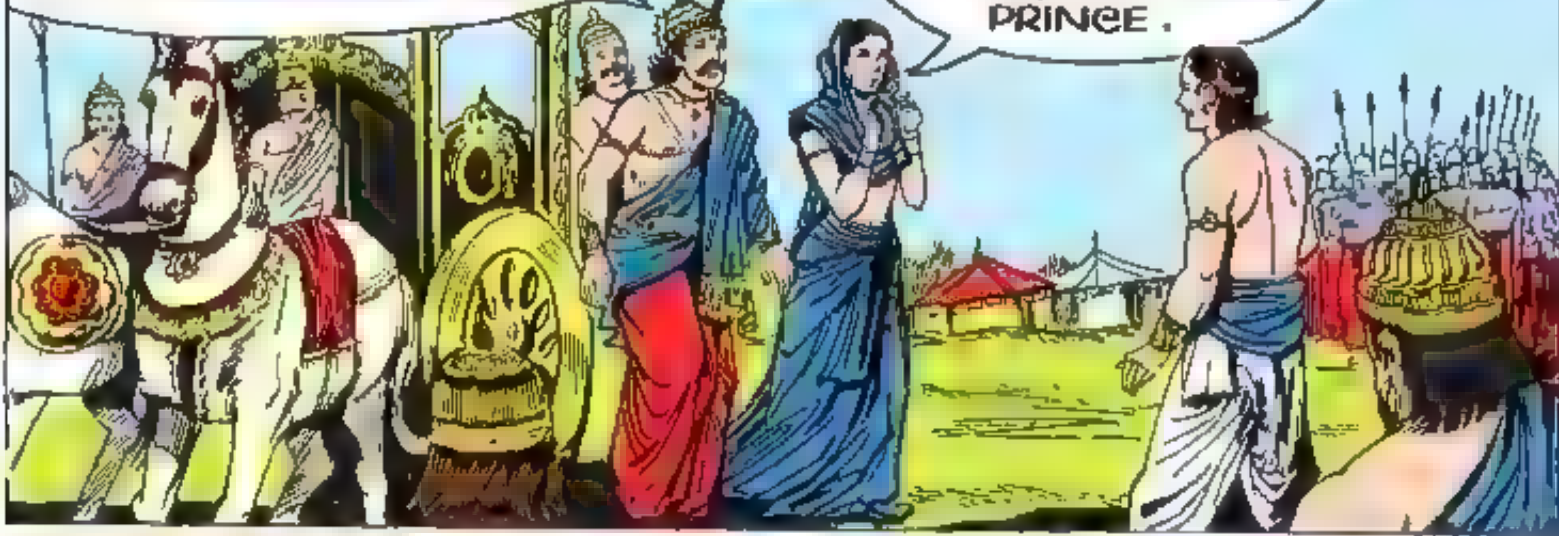
...YOU WILL BE PUT TO DEATH!



INFORMED OF THE SAKA DEBACLE, RAMAGUPTA AND DHRUVA DEVI
ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH
YOU, CHANDRAGUPTA. YOU
WILL BE REWARDED WELL.

I AM INDEBTED TO
YOU, FOR EVER,
PRINCE.



ON THEIR RETURN TO THE CAPITAL -

VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HAIL MAHARANI
DHURVA DEVI!

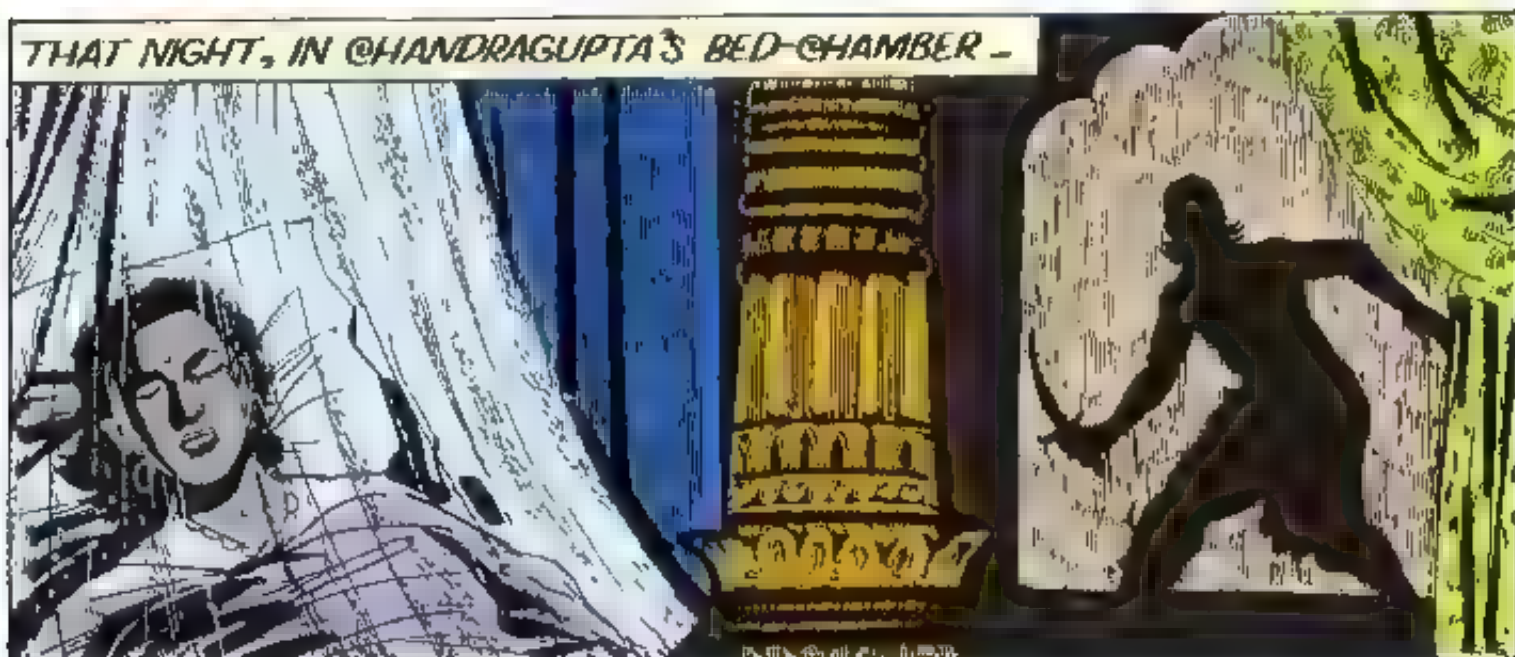
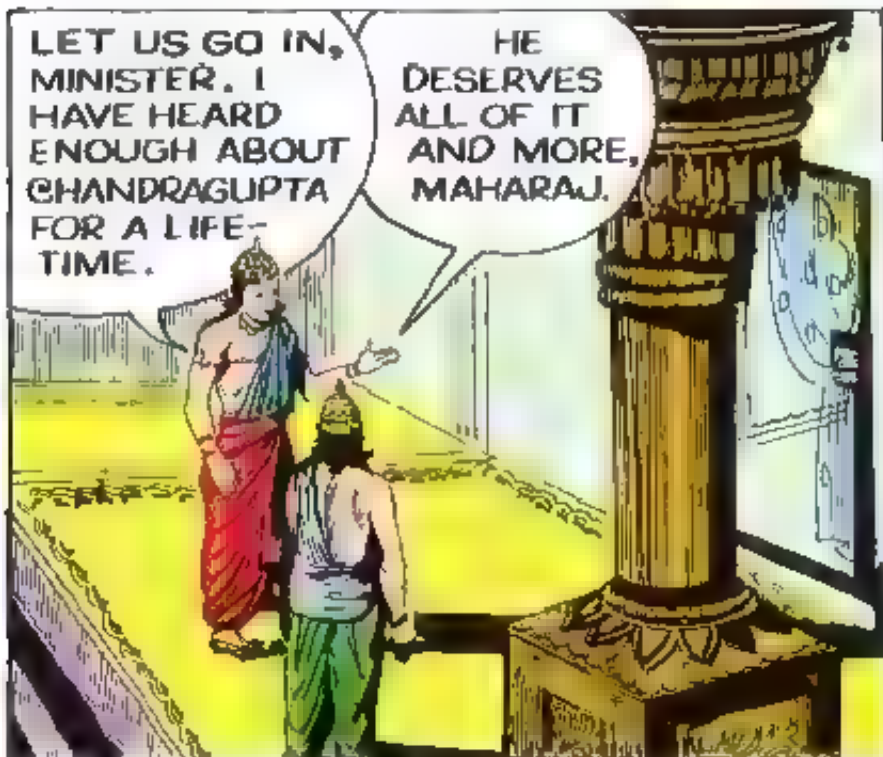


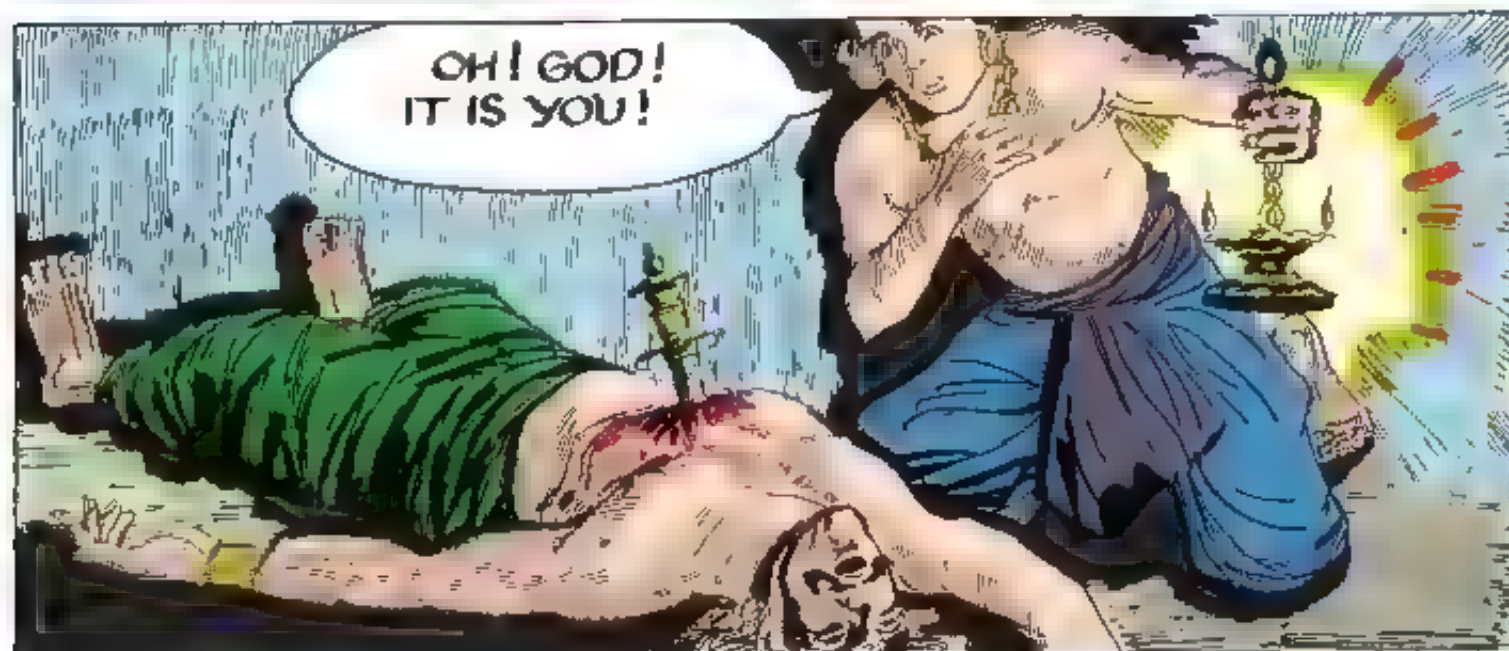
CHANDRAGUPTA WAS
THE CHOSEN
HEIR TO
THE GUPTA
THRONE!

MAHARAJ SAMUDRAGUPTA
HAD HIMSELF NOMINATED
HIM!

RAMAGUPTA
IS A COWARD.
HE HAS NO
RIGHT TO BE
THE KING.







IN THE COURT NEXT DAY..

I HAVE
SAD NEWS
FOR YOU.
MAHARAJ
RAMAGUPTA
IS DEAD.

THE
COWARD
DESERVED
IT!

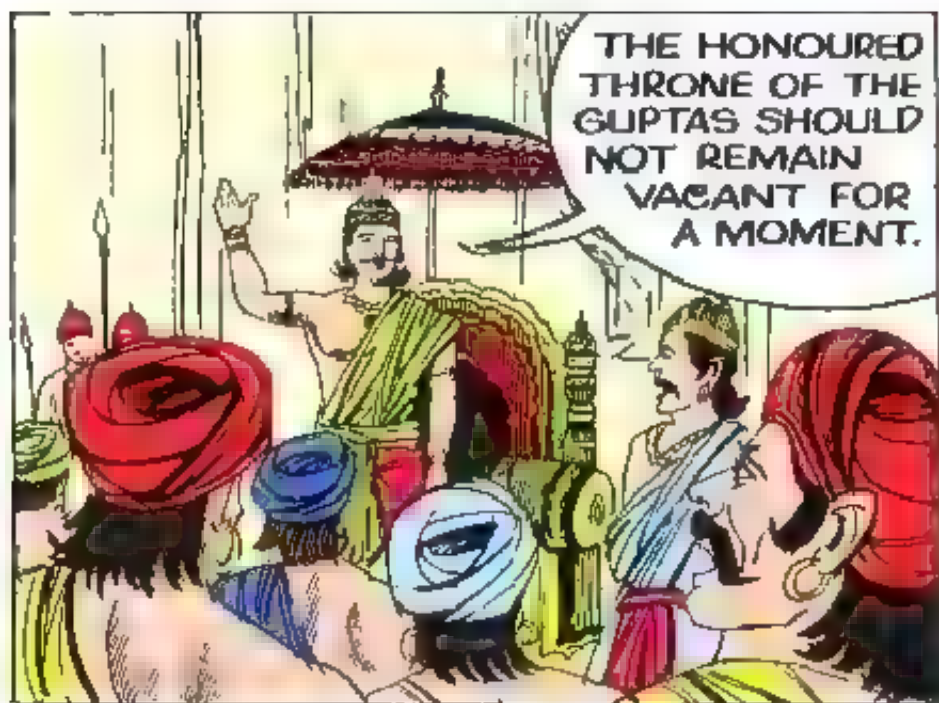
IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE MADE A
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA'S LIFE!

AT THAT MOMENT A THRONG OF PEOPLE ENTERED THE COURT.

VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HE CAN SAFEGUARD THE
COUNTRY AND THE
GUPTA TRADITIONS!

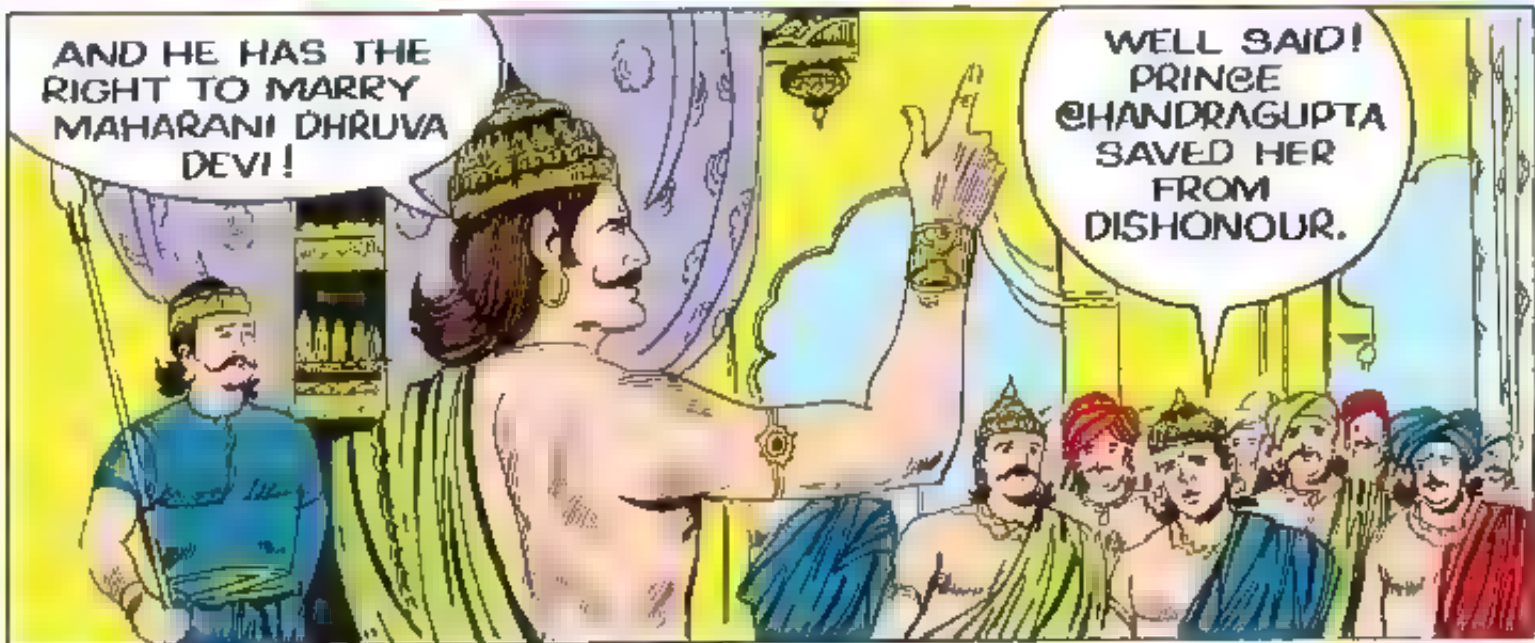
YES.
PRINCE
CHANDRAGU-
PTA IS THE
RIGHTFUL
HEIR TO THE
GUPTA
THRONE.





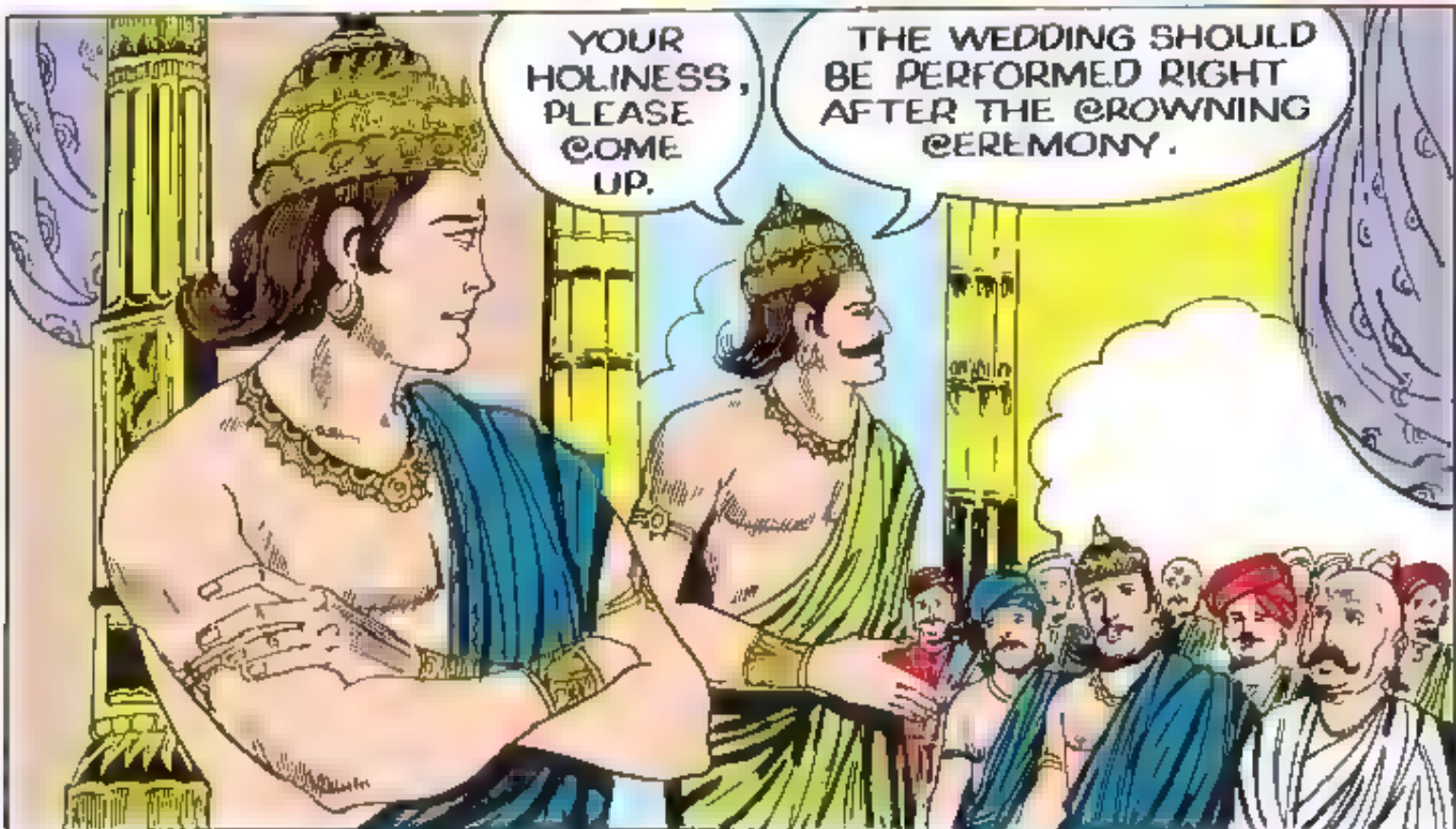
WE WILL LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA!

PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!



AND HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!

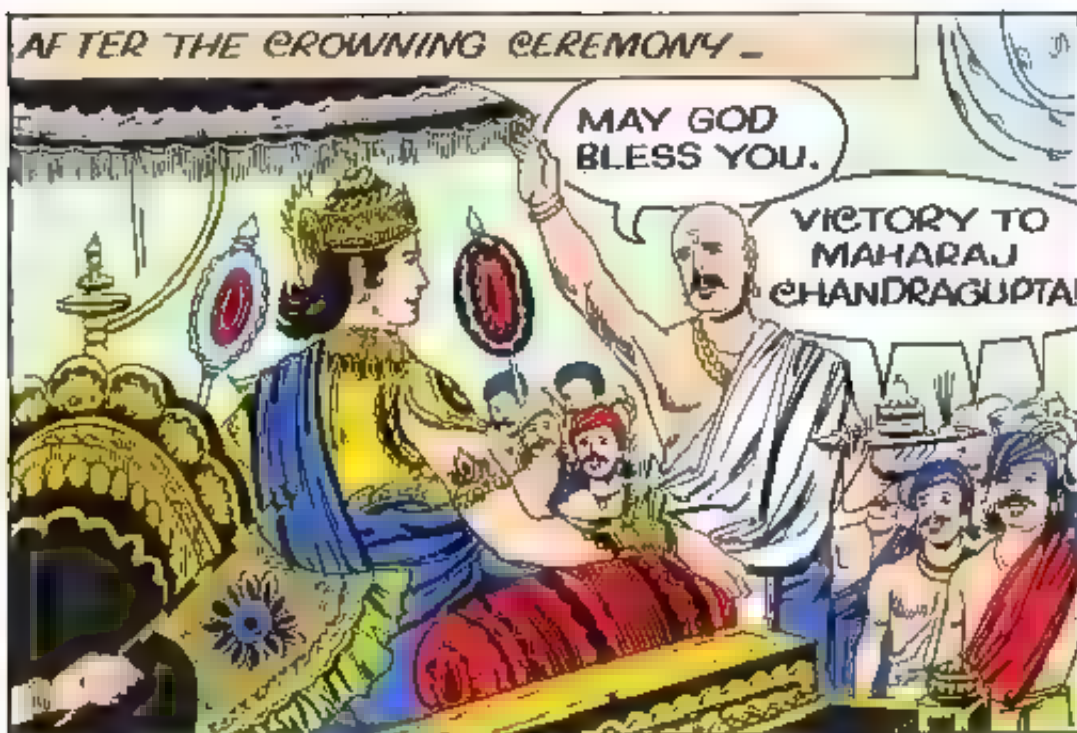
WELL SAID! PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA SAVED HER FROM DISHONOUR.



YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE COME UP.

THE WEDDING SHOULD BE PERFORMED RIGHT AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY.

AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY...



MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

VICTORY TO MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA!

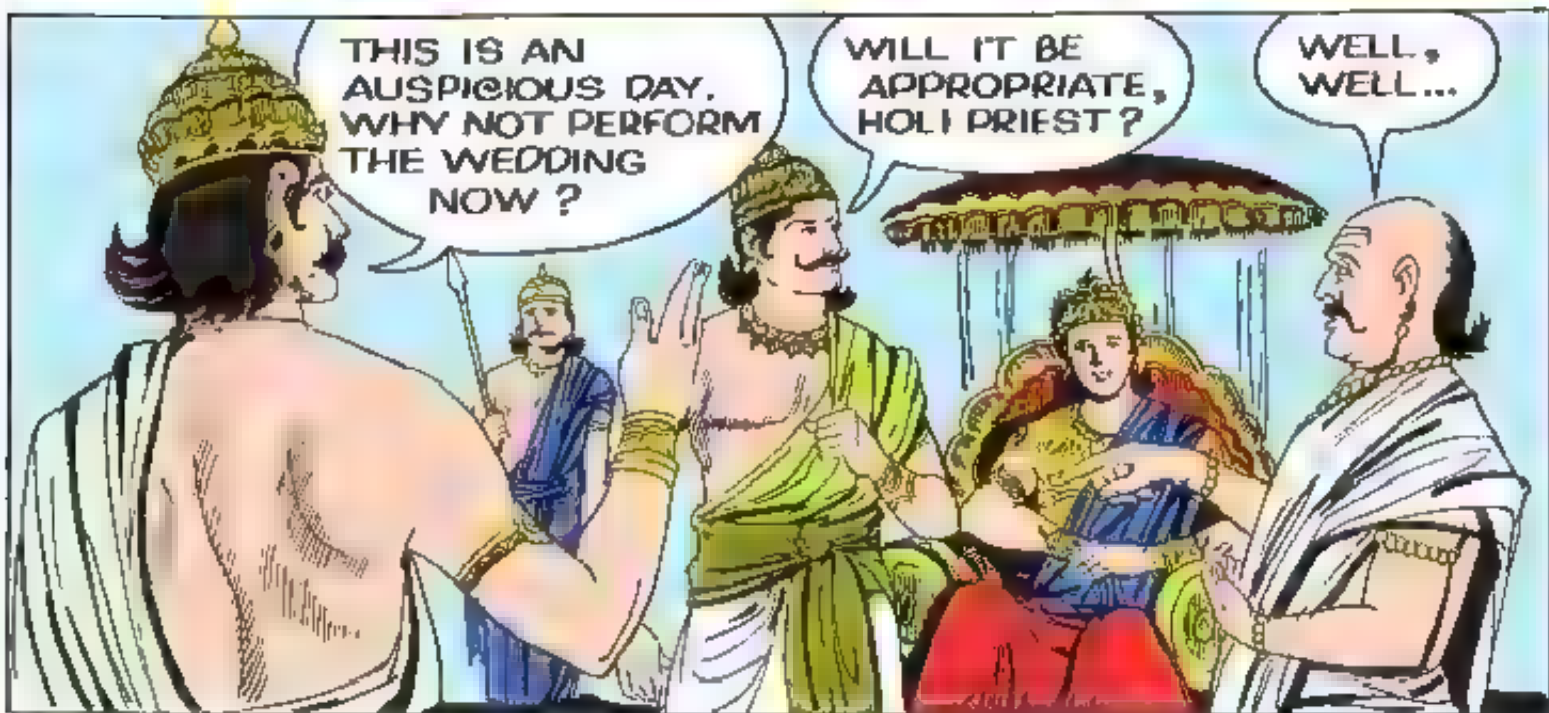
THE BURDEN OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY IS NOW YOURS, MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA.



THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS DAY. WHY NOT PERFORM THE WEDDING NOW?

WILL IT BE APPROPRIATE, HOLI PRIEST?

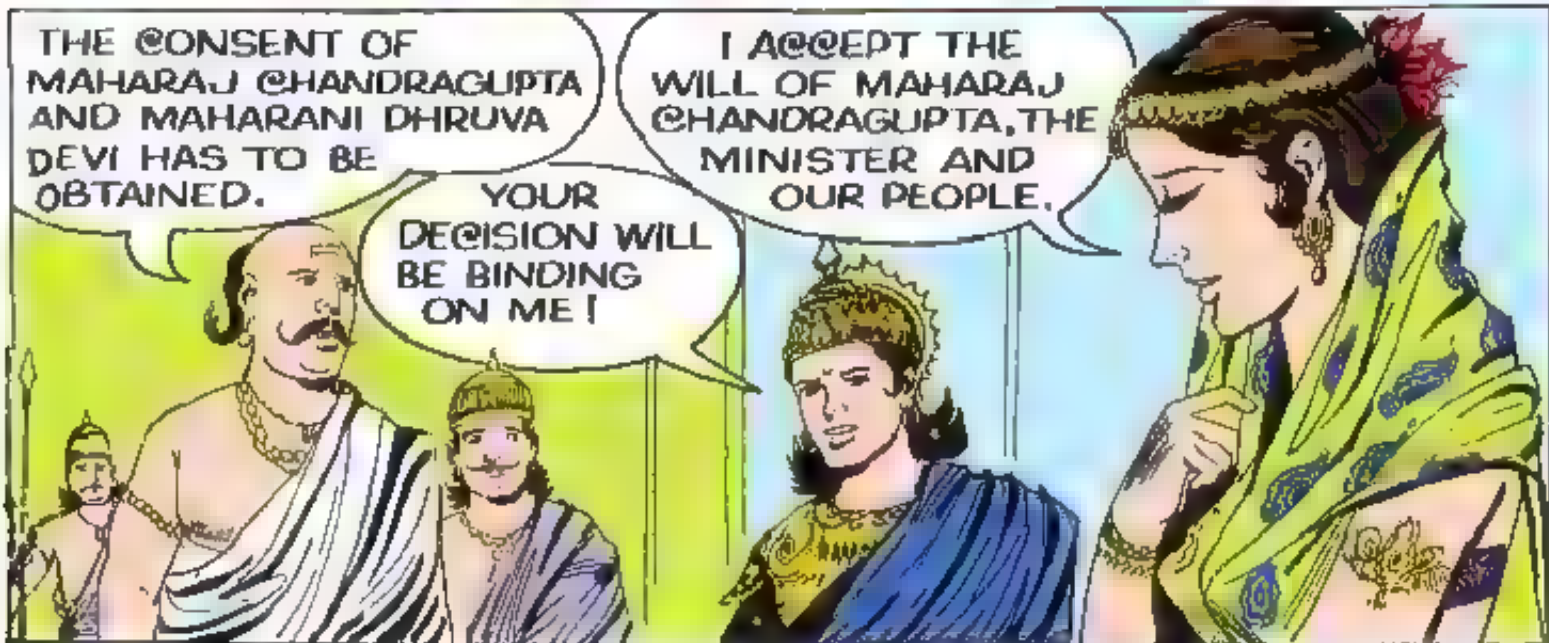
WELL, WELL...



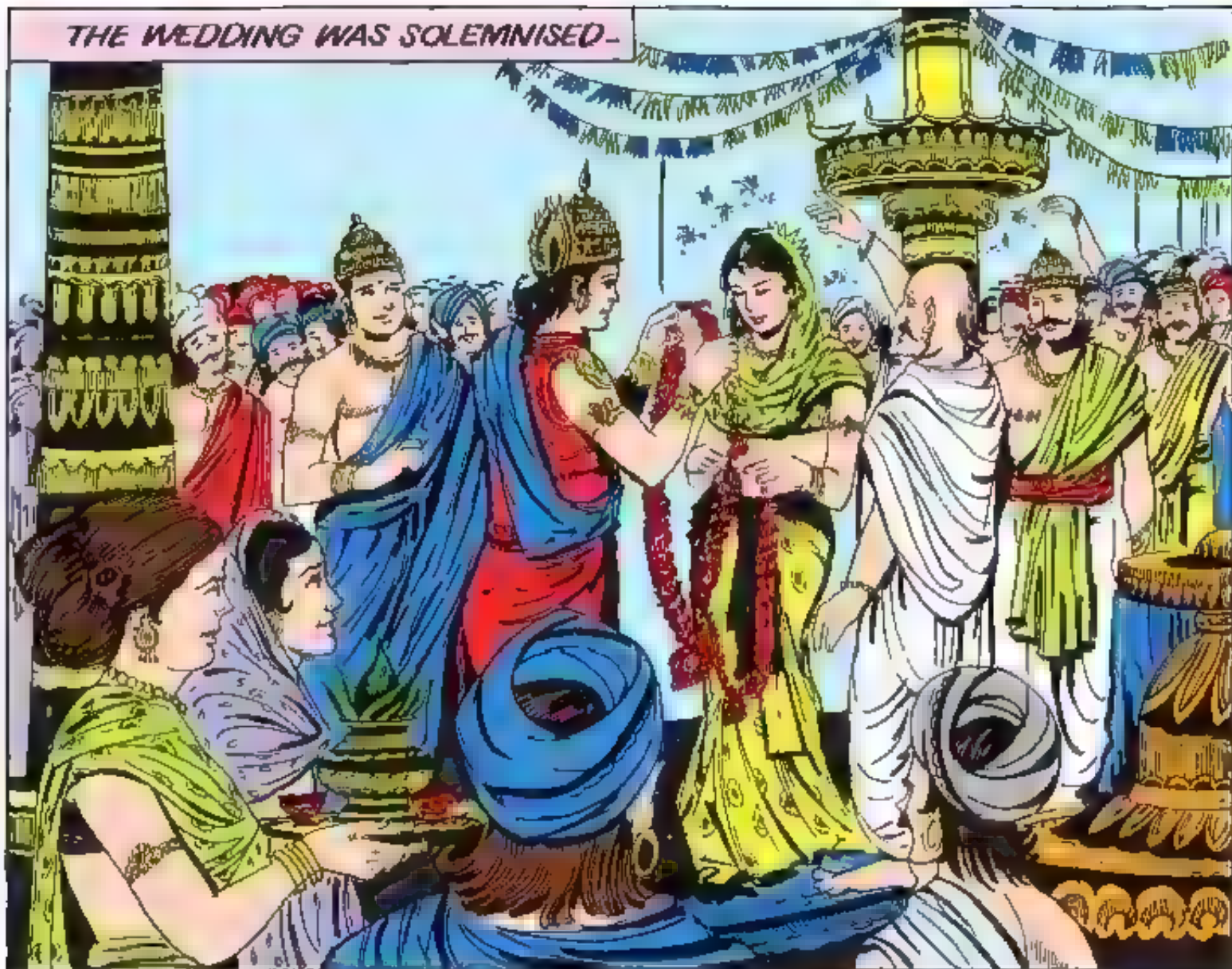
THE CONSENT OF MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA AND MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI HAS TO BE OBTAINED.

I ACCEPT THE WILL OF MAHARAJ CHANDRAGUPTA, THE MINISTER AND OUR PEOPLE.

YOUR DECISION WILL BE BINDING ON ME!



THE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNISED-



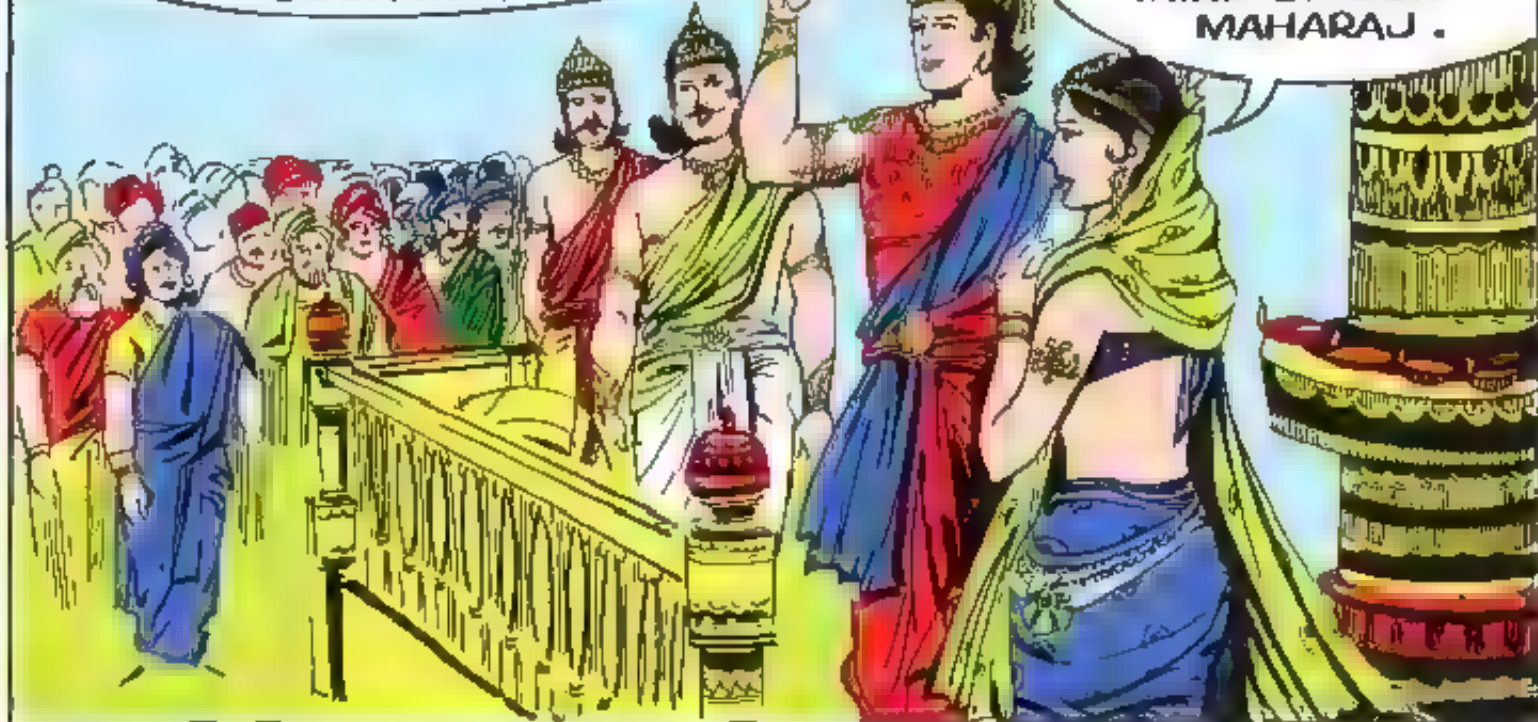
MINISTER, PLEASE
ASK THE PEOPLE TO
STAY AWHILE!

I HAVE TO MAKE
A SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT.



MY COUNTRYMEN, AS YOU WILL
BE MY WITNESS, I WILL NOT REST
UNTIL I HAVE DRIVEN EVERY
SINGLE SAKA OUT OF OUR
COUNTRY.

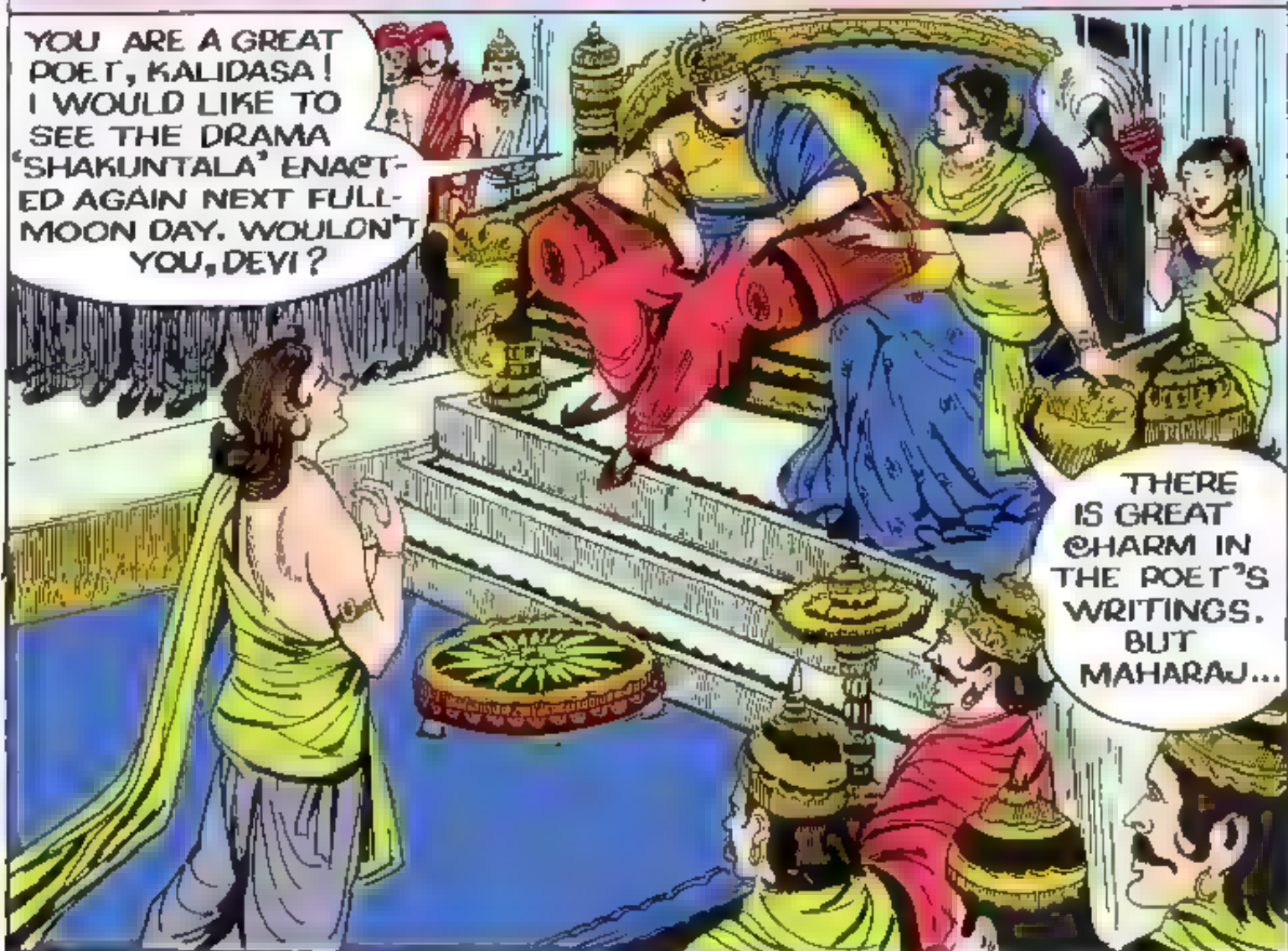
IT WILL BE MY
ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP
THIS PROMISE ALIVE
AND FRESH IN THE
MIND OF OUR
MAHARAJ.



DHURVA DEVI KEPT HER WORD. ONE DAY, AT THE COURT IN UJJAINI -

YOU ARE A GREAT
POET, KALIDASA!
I WOULD LIKE TO
SEE THE DRAMA
'SHAKUNTALA' ENACT-
ED AGAIN NEXT FULL-
MOON DAY. WOULDN'T
YOU, DEVI?

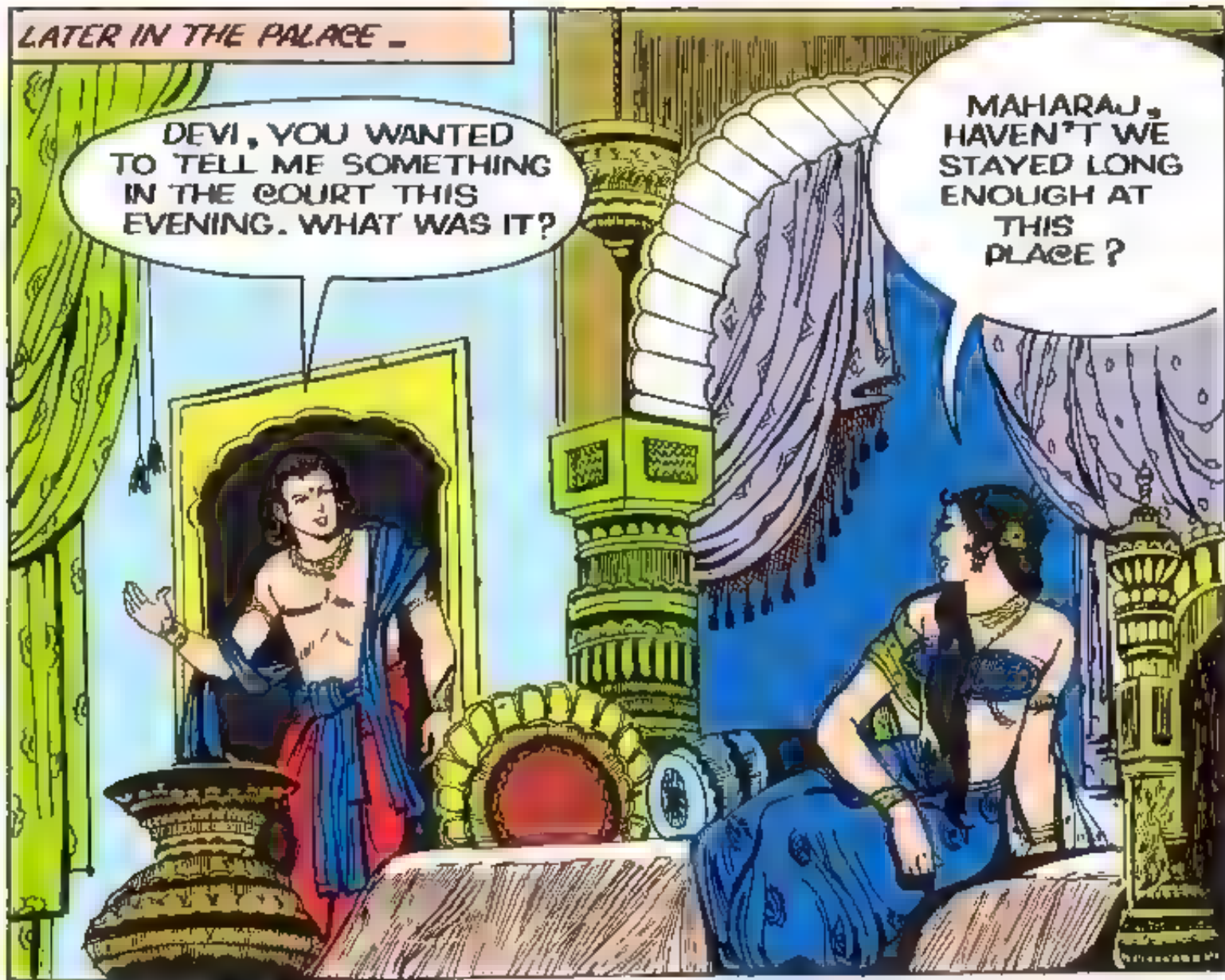
THERE
IS GREAT
CHARM IN
THE POET'S
WRITINGS.
BUT
MAHARAJ...



LATER IN THE PALACE -

DEVI, YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME SOMETHING
IN THE COURT THIS
EVENING. WHAT WAS IT?


MAHARAJ,
HAVEN'T WE
STAYED LONG
ENOUGH AT
THIS
PLACE?



I LIKE THE
PLACE.
I LIKE THE
PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE HERE ADORE
YOU BECAUSE YOU FREED
THEM FROM SAKA DOMINATION.
THEY ALL REFER TO YOU
AS VIKRAMADITYA.
BUT...






BUT THE SAKAS
STILL RULE IN
GUJARAT. IS THAT
WHAT YOU WANT
TO REMIND ME
ABOUT ?


YES AND NEAR
THE BORDERS OF
THIS COUNTRY
THE KUSHANAS
HARASS OUR
PEOPLE .

*SPURRED BY THE WORDS OF DHRUVA DEVI, CHANDRAGUPTA SOON
LEFT ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAKAS .*



MAY VICTORY BE
WITH YOU !

MONTHS LATER -



MAHARANI,
A LETTER FOR
YOU FROM THE
EMPEROR .

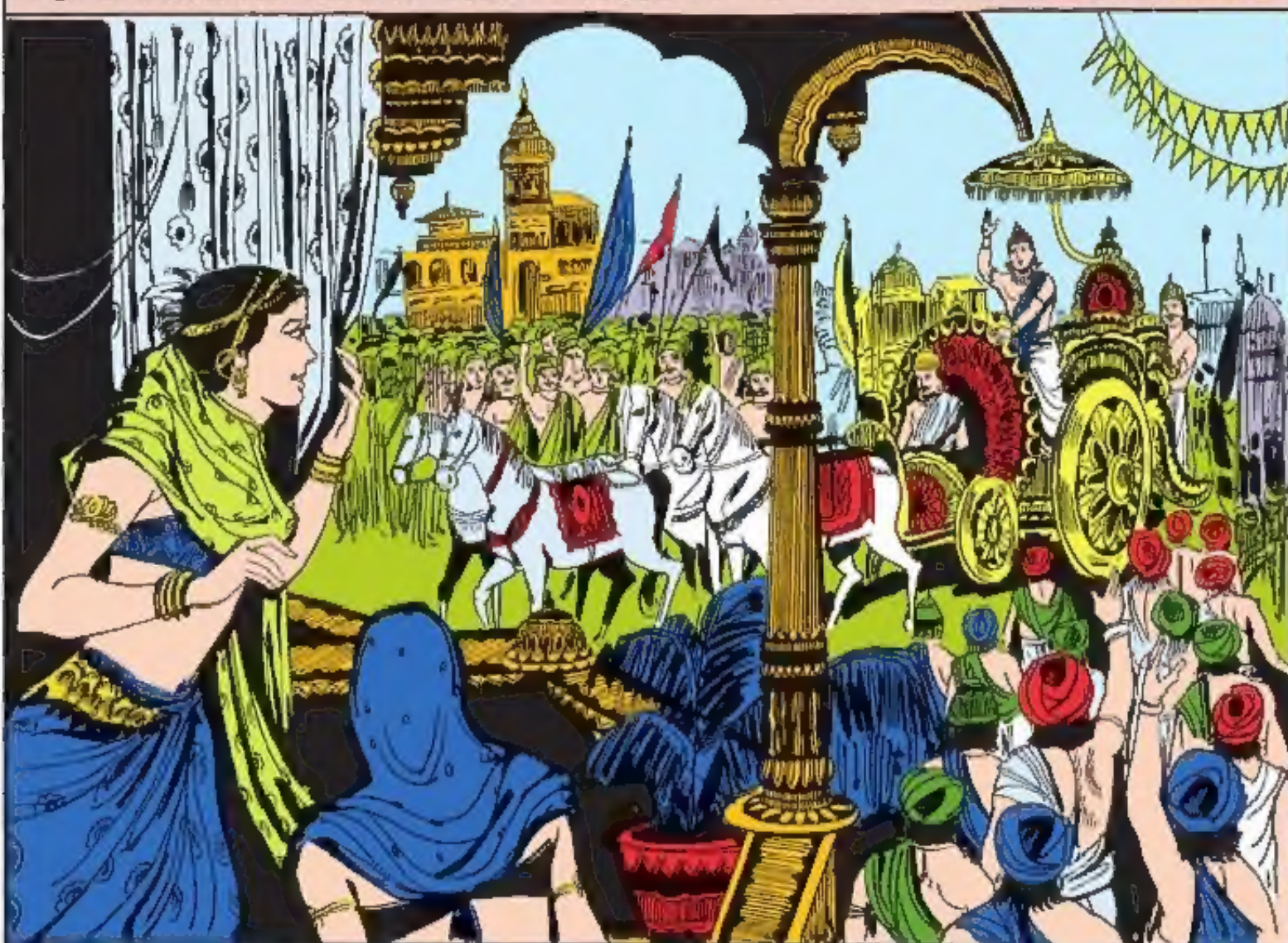
THEN WHAT I HEARD
MUST BE RIGHT. THE
MAHARAJ MUST HAVE
WON THE BATTLE
AGAINST THE SAKAS
OF GUJARAT !

YES, MADHAVI. THE
LAST VESTIGE OF
FOREIGN RULE HAS
BEEN REMOVED
FROM OUR
LAND...

...AND THE
MAHARAJ WILL
BE COMING
BACK SOON.

GREAT
NEWS!

PEOPLE GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THEIR HERO ON HIS RETURN.



LATER CHANDRAGUPTA WENT AS FAR AS BACTRIA, BEYOND THE HINDU
KUSH MOUNTAINS AND DEFEATED THE KUSHANAS TOO.

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bhishma
Chandrasekhar
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephantia
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Hanschandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karina
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Parikshit
Parashurama
Prabhavali
Pradyumna
Prahlad
Purushottam Dev And
Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
Saraswati
Satl And Shiva
Savitri
Shiva Parvati
Stories Of Creation
Subhadra
Sudama
Sukanya
Surya
Tales From The
Upanishads
Tales Of Arjuna
Tales Of Balarama
Tales Of Durga
Tales Of Indra
Tales Of Narada

Tales Of Shiva
Tales Of Vishnu
Tales Of Yudhishtira
Tapali
Thanjavur
The Churning Of The
Ocean
The Gita
The Golden Mongoose
The King In
A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Syamantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Valmiki
Vishnu Devi
Vallu
Vishwamitra
Yayati

VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers,
social reformers and
nation builders

Adi Shankara
Albert Einstein
Anant Pal
Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
Buddha
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
Chanakya
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Dayananda
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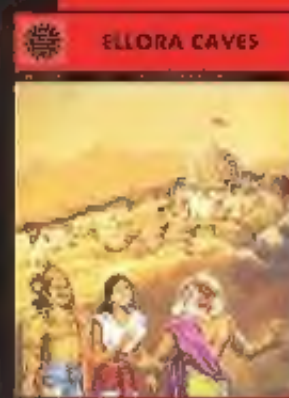
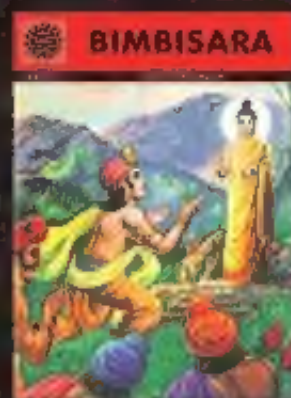
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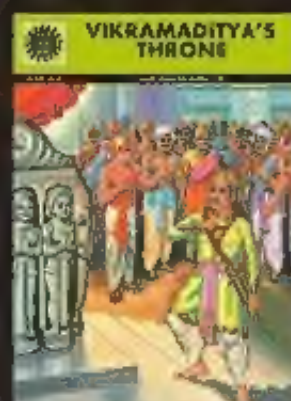
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